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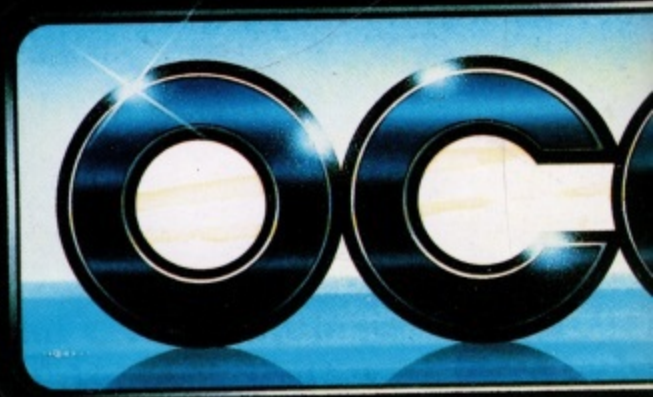
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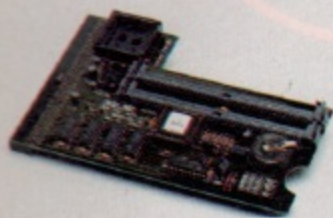
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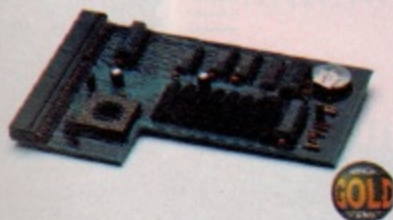
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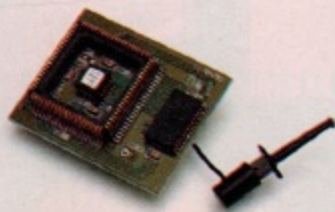
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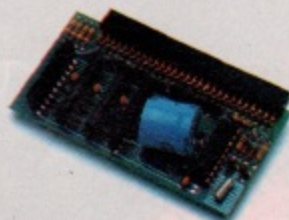
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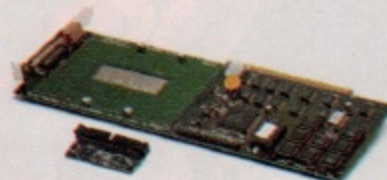
Up to 128MB of RAM on your Amiga 3000/400 using 4,8,16 and 32MB Simm modules. This is a true Zorro III 32-bit memory board.

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The easy-to-use graphical user interface guarantees that even the inexperienced user is able to use Disk Expander immediately without any problems. DiskExpander does not only expand the capacity of your hard disk drive, even floppy disks now have a storage space of approximately 1.5 megabytes.

The concept of DiskExpander was designed under the aspect of maximum data security and high compression speed. The user decides to which extent the data is condensed by choosing high or medium compression libraries and thus has direct influence on the processing speed.

- Can add 50% to your hard drive capacity at a stroke
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- Supports Mitsumi LU005 CD-ROM & FX001D double speed CD-ROM drives
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Tandem CD-DE card **£69**
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Calcom v.32 bis **£169**
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PC880B with Blitz Amiga..... **£70**
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Features	PC880B	Amitek
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Anti-virus	●	●
Aluminium extrusion	●	●
Sony mechanism	●	●
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Upgradable to 1.76MB	●	●
Cyclone compatible chip	●	●
Built-in backup hardware	●	●
Mouse operated	●	●

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PC880E Economy Drive..... **£49.95**



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3.5" SCSI Internal **£539**
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CU AMIGA CONTENTS

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Ten years ago, when home computing was still in its infancy, it seemed as though games grew out of shoe boxes at the bottom of people's beds – good games too, not the sort of run-of-the-mill commercial stuff we've seen all too often since then. But the software giants haven't completely taken over. **Tony Dillon** introduces some now familiar names who started from scratch and built an empire. Nearly. Could you do it too?



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OFF THE CUFF

E D I T O R I A L



Alan Dykes - Editor

It's all swings and roundabouts isn't it? Dan Slingsby left the Amiga behind two months ago to boldly go forth into PC territory; I've moved in the opposite direction.

And I'm seriously enjoying it. The thing about

the Amiga is that, although it is a serious machine, it's not taken as seriously as the PC. Let me elaborate. Most PCs are bought for business needs first, entertainment second. For all their super fast, local bus motherboarded, 486DX2 chipped, all singing and dancing glory, they're not that much fun are they? Well, their users aren't anyway. The average Amiga owner has a much deeper background in home computing. He started off with a C64 or a Spectrum, or maybe he's grown up with the Amiga. He will have tried programming his own games or applications at some stage or other, and has probably dabbled in music and demos. He may even have had some of his work published as PD or otherwise. He buys exciting games, ones which the PC has never been able to accurately emulate, like *Sensi Soccer* and *Alien Breed* (incredible thorns in the PC's side). And the PC user? He's a Lotus 123 fanatic with too much space on his hard drive for his own good. Let's face it readers, you're great!

And so is CU AMIGA. I mean, just look at what we've got lined up for you this month: In our cover story we tell you how some enthusiasts joined forces to produce and market great games. In CD32 Zone Tony Dillon starts a new diary of a game, featuring *Space Academy*, a CD32 only development by Stellar Genesis Agency for Mindscape, just one of the many titles currently under development solely for that machine. And speaking of CD, John Kennedy investigates CD-ROM possibilities that use current technology. What a guy. Enough! Read on...

Alan Dykes
Editor

**NEXT ISSUE ON SALE
19 APRIL**

EDITOR: Alan Dykes **DEPUTY EDITOR** Lisa Collins **GAMES EDITOR** Tony Dillon **ASSISTANT TECHNICAL EDITOR** Tony Horgan **GROUP ART EDITOR** Gordon Barrick **ART EDITOR** Jo Winslow **TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS** Mat Broomfield, John Kennedy **CONTRIBUTORS** Jason Holborn, DJ Walker-Morgan, Peter Lee, Andy Mitchell, Vampyro, Mark Patterson, Steve Keen, Paul Presley **DISK COMPILER** Kenny Grant **ADVERTISING MANAGER** Sean Collings **SALES EXECUTIVES** Chris Perera & Kiera Roche **AD PRODUCTION** Tina Gynn & Robin Ryan **GROUP ADVERTISING MANAGER** Nigel Taylor **PUBLISHING DIRECTOR** Mike Frey
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GET SERIOUS

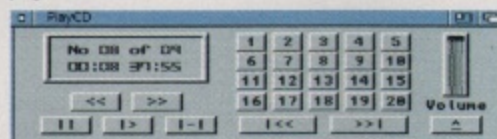
PRODUCTIVITY REVIEWS PRODUCTIVITY REVIEW

Excellent news for *Imagine* users! The new update version 2.9 gets the CU AMIGA review treatment on page 104. Another first is the massive preview of *Music X 2.0*, and don't miss our comprehensive guide to making your Amiga CD-ROM compatible.

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Check out the exclusive preview of *Music X 2.0* on page 110.



CD-ROM is dissected and digested on page 120.

SCREEN SCENE

GAME REVIEWS GAME REVIEWS GAME REVIEWS

What a crazy hotpot of smash hits and near misses we've got for you this issue! We were worried we weren't going to be able to fit them all in! Audiogenic return with their incredible platformer *Bubble & Squeak*, while Core finally release the atmospheric *Darkmere*. Get reading!

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Kings Quest VI earns itself a screenstar in its review on page 73.



Being naughty is sometimes nice as we find out in *Naughty Ones* on page 79.

REGULARS

- 9 **NEWS** With the CD32 taking off at last, things are looking up for Commodore. Find out more on page nine, and catch up on all the rest of the developments in the Amiga world.
- 16 **COVERDISKS** See the panel on the opposite page
- 47 **CD32 ZONE** This month's selection of CD32 games includes the *Lotus Trilogy*, *Seek and Destroy*, and *Fury of the Furries*, plus news on all the up and coming silver discs.
- 102 **PRODUCTIVITY REVIEWS** See Get Serious panel.

- 132 **PD SCENE** A stack of stunning demos are on show this month, along with the latest *Assassins* game compilation, and some of the best music disks to appear in ages.
- 137 **PD UTILITIES** The excellent HAM Lab Plus gets a full page review, with a supporting cast of sound samples, productivity software and educational disks.
- 142 **ART GALLERY** Yet more Amiga masterpieces from the readers of CU AMIGA get a public viewing. Did yours get in this month?

COVERDISKS

The amazing *Adorage* is the star of the first disk this month. It comes complete with *Master Virus Killer* and the compelling strategy game, *Task Force*. Probably the best adventure game this year, *Kings Quest 6* comes your way on the second disk.

DISK 78

PAGE 16

Slicker than a Brylcreamed porcupine, *Adorage* is here to give all your videos a truly professional edge. It's yours with this issue, and when we give you a full-price software application, we give you the complete, fully-featured program, not the sort of half-baked, save-disabled teaser program that others offer. At last you can emulate all those super-smooth wipes and have the screen peeling off to reveal the next shot, or exploding into lots of tiny pieces. Thanks to the SSA animation player, you even get 50 frames per second playback in many cases, lending an extra touch of finesse to any production. *The Master Virus Killer* is also on disk 78, one of the most comprehensive virus-killing systems around, this is just what the doctor ordered. Bringing up the rear, there's the *Laser Squad*-style *Task Force* – a complete sprawling strategy wargame to keep you up well into the small hours.



DISK 79

PAGE 25

Sierra are returning to the Amiga, albeit under the watchful gaze of Revolution Software. Charles Cecil and the gang, creators of *Beneath A Steel Sky*, have been trundling along with this one for a few months, and you have to admit it's a bit of a cracker.

Ported directly from the PC version, *Kings Quest VI* is a mammoth adventure, taking you over land and sea, and you can sample a healthy chunk of it with our extra special coverdisk this month.

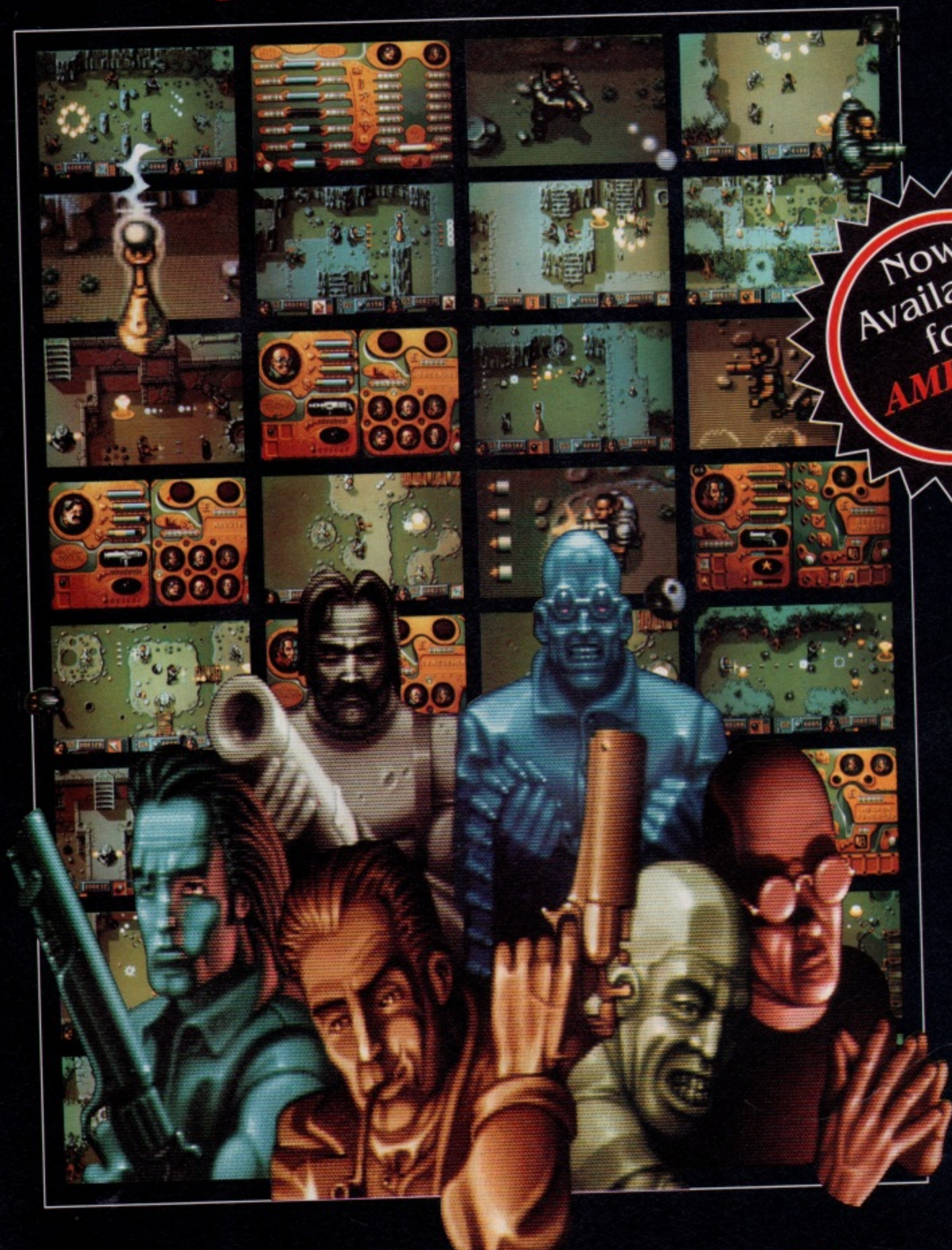
Gasp at the graphics! Shriek at the sound! Beware of brain strain! It's enormous!

Not only that, but we also bring you a PD version of everyone's favourite game, *Dotz!* Can you build more blocks than your opponent in the space provided? Simple, but addictive, you won't want to load another disk until this time next month!



• The Bitmap Brothers •

THE CHAOS ENGINE



NEW FEATURES FOR **AMIGA CD³²**

Fully Animated Intro • Enhanced User-Interface • Interactive Instruction Manual
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CU NEWS

CD32 SOFTWARE SALES RIDING HIGH



The CD32 is topping the software sales charts all over the country. Unlike its console counterparts bottom right and left.

Commodore was in an exceptionally buoyant mood this week as the latest Gallup figures showed CD32 software sales clearly at the top of the charts for the first time. The charts, which show the actual sales of CD-ROM software around the country, reveal that Sega's Mega CD has finally slipped from the number one slot, dropping over 20% of their market share during the last month.

The news comes at a time when the consoles are just starting to feel the pinch, reflected in the almost universal drop in sales of console magazines. It seems that people may finally have got fed up with paying the inflated software prices. Ironically, in the face of this evidence, Sega has apparently been bullishly declaring that it no longer considers its biggest rival Nintendo, to actually be a rival any more!

Whilst these two slug it out, it looks as though the CD32 is poised to come in and forge ahead from behind. Even more interesting are the fortunes of 3DO, the new American wonder-console which looked as if it would pose a serious threat to CD32 sales. However, contrary to initial reactions, many major US players are now giving the machine a distinctly frosty reception and its future is looking less certain than it was previously.

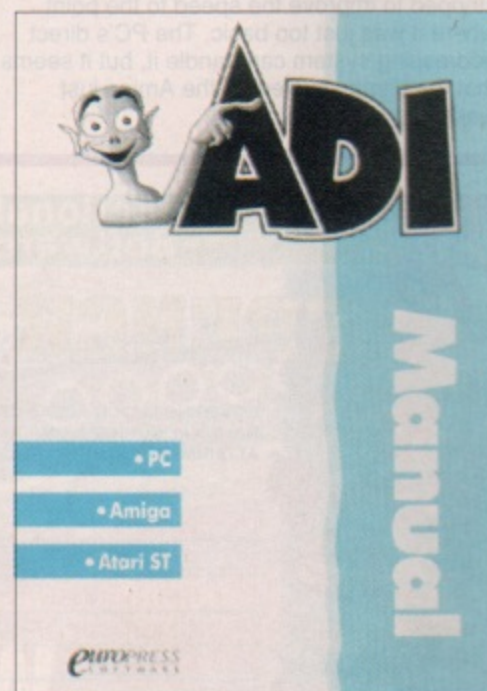
It would appear that the American public are not the financial fools everybody had hoped they might be, because there is a marked lack of people queuing up to hand over the \$699 asking price. It now seems certain that when the machine finally hits these shores, that it will have price tag of £499; very expensive for a games console.

In the meantime, CD32 keeps selling, and so does the software. Perhaps the most significant thing about the latest Gallup figures is the fact that they place CD32 sales over 7% above those of PC CD-ROM. Considering the fact that there are tens, if not hundreds of thousands of PC CD-ROM players out there, it's remarkable that the CD32 has managed to ward them all off. Amusingly enough, Philips, the main rival in terms of CD Video sales, only rates a paltry 1.8% of the overall pie, proof enough, if any were needed, that Commodore is back, and they mean business.



GCSE IN AMIGA GAMES

No, it's not a new school course, just a way of introducing you to Europress Software's new GCSE ADI packs. Aimed at the 14-16 year old age range, the packs are different in that they cover a two year age group rather than the single year normally covered. Costing £34.95 instead of the usual £25, topics covered include English, French and Maths. It's all up to the usual high standard, and should be in the shops very soon! For more information, call Europress on 0625 859333.



I'D BUY THAT FOR A FIVER!

Daze Marketing have had a very successful run with the *Ishar* series, but not everyone has a copy yet. On the same note, not everyone has a copy of the brilliant *Transartica* either. Neither game has been released on budget yet, which means that if you want to go out to the shops to pick up either, you'll have to fork out (a worthwhile) £25.99. Unless, of course, you buy them through CU AMIGA. Thanks to those nice chaps at Daze, we can offer you either of these games for no more than £5 EACH!! Or TWO FOR TEN POUNDS! To take advantage of this exceptional offer, please fill in the coupon below, with a cheque or postal order (no credit cards please) made out to Daze Marketing, and send it off to "Blimey That's Cheap Offer, Daze Marketing, 2 Canfield Place, London NW6 3BT. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

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I would like ___ copies of *Ishar* and ___ copies of *Transartica* please.

NO RALLY FOR AMIGA!

It has now been announced that *Rally*, the game that has caused such a buzz in the last few months is not now going to be released on the Amiga. Already a smash hit in the PC market, the game has proven impossible to do on any but the fastest Amiga. Over the past few months *Rally* was gradually stripped and stripped to improve the speed to the point where it was just too basic. The PC's direct addressing system can handle it, but it seems that the bitmap system of the Amiga just wasn't up to the job.

10 out of 10
Educational Software

FRENCH

COVERING MAJOR AREAS OF NATIONAL CURRICULUM ATTAINMENT TARGETS 3 & 4

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- ✓ Phrases
- ✓ Sentences
- ✓ Grammar
- ✓ Shopping
- ✓ Hobbies
- ✓ The Family
- ✓ Travel
- ✓ Health
- ✓ Sport

AMIGA
1mb
Minimum

For AGES 8+ to 16 years

10/10 SILVER PLATE?

10 Out Of 10 Educational Software return to the shelves once more this month with *10 Out Of 10 French*. Aimed at the 8 to 16 year old range, the package features six different games to teach phrases, grammar and a vocabulary in an interactive and interesting way. If it's as good as the others in the series, it'll be a welcome addition to your school course. Call 0742 780370 for details.

RESERVOIR FISH?

Rumours are circulating currently concerning the future of our old friend James Pond, about to return once more in *Operation Starfish*. Apparently, Millennium's next step is to make the move to CD in a bigger way, with large sections of the game using full motion video, shot underwater at the recently reopened Ealing Studios. The cast is yet to be finalised, but current Hollywood darling Harvey Keitel is rumoured for the role of Dr. Maybe. Call Millennium on 0223 844894 for more details.

TFX - LANDING SOON!

It's a game that we've had more calls and letters about than anything else, and it's here. *TFX* (Tactical Fighter EXperiment) is about to be unleashed after months of delays and setbacks, and it looks better than ever. To be released in June for the CD32 and A1200, DID's finest hour should be every bit as fantastic on Commodore's war-baby as it is on the PC. The CD32 version will have all the same colours as the PC, with the same texture maps and Gouraud shading. The hard disk installable A1200 version will also have all the colours and shading, although some of the more complex shapes may be simplified slightly. Look out for a review soon. Or call Ocean on 061 832 6633 for more details.

BEST VALUE CD-ROMS EVER?

Almathera have just announced what is undoubtedly the best value CD in the world. For the absolutely miserly price of £14.95, you'll be able to buy *Euroscene 1*, a CD containing approximately one gigabyte (that's 1,000 megabytes!) of archived demos and PD software. In order to access the data, you'll need a keyboard and a mouse. You'll also need a bootable system disk (one containing Workbench) or a Serial port link to another Amiga. All in all then, not a disk for the total beginner but a darned worthwhile product.

For those of you who work in video, graphics or DTP, their Image CD is a dream come true! 660 megabytes of compressed 24-bit images on a CD, complete with viewers for both Amigas and PCs. No price has yet been finalised for this CD although Almathera say that they will be setting it at the same affordable level that has characterised their recent CD releases. As with the *Euroscene* disk, you'll need some extras to use the photo disk.

You can find out more by phoning Almathera on 081 687 0040.



SCANNERS NOW CHEAPER THAN EVER

Golden Image have just announced that their Alfascan scanner has just been reduced by £44 to £135. The device, which is capable of producing scans in 256 shades of grey, is also bundled with the optical character recognition software OCR Junior, a package which itself retailed for £79.95.

You can find out more by phoning Golden Image on 081 365 1102.

COMMODORE SUPPORTS SERIOUS USERS

At last Commodore have put paid to criticisms that they don't market the Amiga range effectively, by opening the first of three dedicated Amiga solutions advice centres.

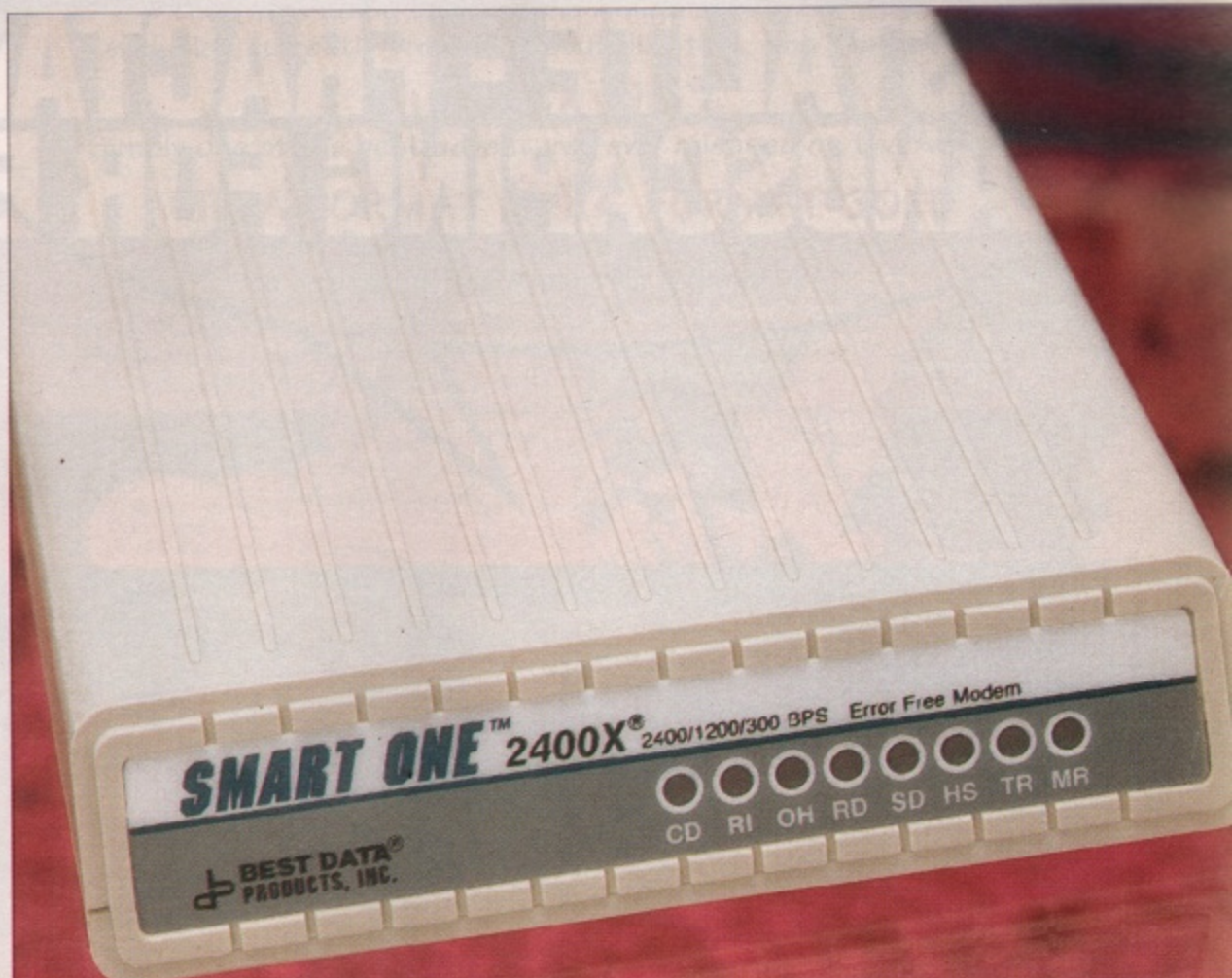
The centres, dubbed Amiga Centres of Excellence (ACE) are designed specifically to assist upmarket users to choose the best Amiga set-up for their requirements.

The centres will also have an invaluable opportunity to promote the entire Amiga range to big business, but are likely to focus on the up-market machines such as the A4000.

The first centre is to open in Colwyn, Wales on March 1st, with two more centres due to open in the coming weeks.

SOFTWARE PRICE WAR RAGES

A recent spate of discounting has blossomed into a full-scale price war that can only spell good news to the the average software buyer. What started as a bit of discounting by Blockbuster to try and stimulate sales for the ludicrously overpriced *Sonic 3* cartridge, caused an escalating spire of price-cutting. Future Zone, one of the country's biggest specialist retailers took their time to react, but when they did it was with sweeping discounts across the entire software range, including Amiga games. Some titles have been discounted by as much as £20.



MODEMS NOW EVEN CHEAPER

Siren Software have just started distributing the Best Data 'Smart One' range of modems. The modems are capable of transmission speeds of up to 14,400 BPS, yet only cost £199.99. The modems feature full duplex, V42bis and MNP5 data compression, with Fax group III compatibility.

For details phone Simon Cobb on 061 724 7572.



HEWLETT PACKARD

HEWLETT PACKARD SUPPORTS THE AMIGA

Printer manufacturer Hewlett Packard recently announced the availability of specially commissioned Amiga drivers for the vast majority of its printer range, including the 1200C, the 550C and the Laser and Paintjet series.

The driver is pre-configured to produce optimum print speed and shade resolution, although it only supports 4096 colours, so it still won't be able to produce a full range of output when used to print AGA or 24-bit images.

It's currently available in English or German and you can find out by contacting their Fax Information Retrieval Service on 0800 960271.

EPSON PROJECTOR OUT OF PRODUCTION

Epson's Top Rated VP-100PS video projector (reviewed in CU AMIGA February 1994) has now ceased production. Although Visual Products had tied up a distribution deal for the projector, all the existing units have now been sold. Due to very popular demand for the unit, Visual Products are at present in negotiations with the manufacturers of a similar projector, which they hope to be distributing very soon, although they are unlikely to be able to match the VP-100PS's relatively low price of £799. Contact Visual Products on 0494 890601.

CD32 USER GROUP

CD Exchange is a user group dedicated solely to the Amiga CD32. Members will benefit from regular newsletters and swap facilities. A quarterly CD-ROM is also being considered.

Membership is £9.99. Contact them at CD Exchange, Unit D5, Hi-Tech House, Blackfriars Street, Norwich, NR3 1SF. Tel: 0603 662066.

» VISTALITE - FRACTAL LANDSCAPING FOR EVERYONE

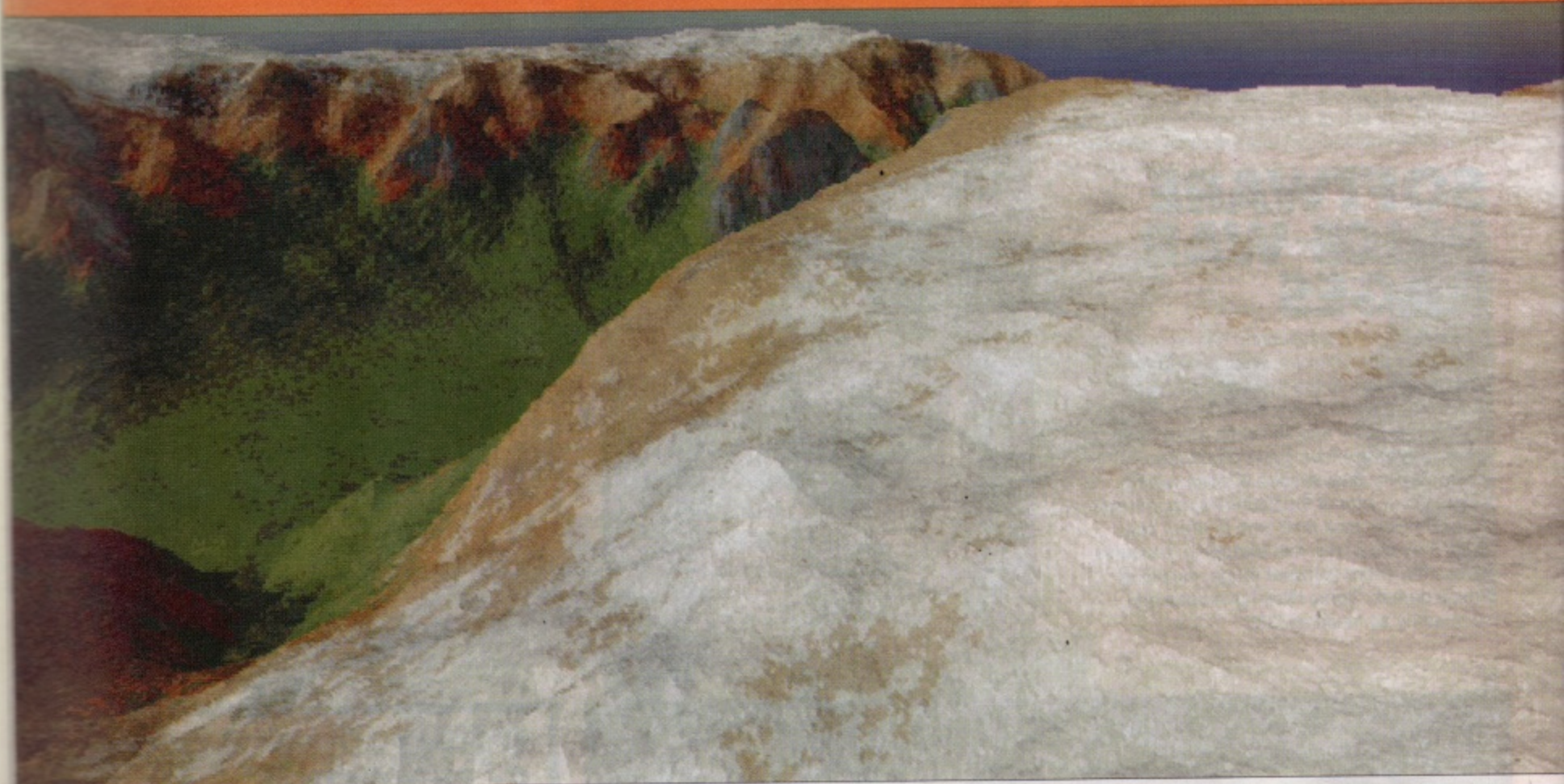
Virtual Reality Laboratories this week announced the availability of a new special version of *Vista Pro*. The program only requires 2Mb of memory to run as opposed to the six megs required by *Vista Pro 3.0*.

The majority of *Vista*'s important features have been retained, including variable tree types, waves, rivers, stars and, of course, full support for Digital Elevation Maps which allow

you to render real-world scenes.

This remarkable feat of programming has apparently been achieved by creating a virtual RAM disk, so that when the program runs out of conventional RAM, it can use a hard drive as extra memory.

The program, which retails for £59.95, is available from Meridian Distribution. Call them on 081 543 3500 for further details.



TRIPLE VISION

A new company called Visual Promotions has announced its entry into the computer arena with a trio of graphics related products.

The first is a T-shirt printing service. If you send them an IFF screen on a disk, they'll print the file in black and white or grey shades onto a quality white T-shirt for only £6.95. If you're feeling exceptionally flush, you can send two pictures and have a double sided shirt printed for only £8.95.

Video users will doubtless be interested to hear about their Visuals collection; a series of disks, each containing a collection of photo-realistic graphic files. The first volume consists of three disks of landscape and sunset images. The images are available in a variety of formats ranging from HAM and HAM8 up to 24-bit, BMP and TIFF. The set is a snip at only £5.95.

The final product is a book called *The Ultimate DTP Guide*, and it'll come as absolutely no surprise to learn that it covers a variety of DTP related subjects including choosing a software package, page design, fonts and using graphics. At only £5.95, the book seems to represent good value for money. You can expect a review here soon. For further details phone 0303 245378.



FREE COMMS GUIDE FROM US ROBOTICS

Modem manufacturers US Robotics are offering 300,000 free copies of a guide to on-line services and Comms.

Entitled *The Sportster Guide to On-Line Services*, the 45 page full colour booklet is primarily aimed at PC owners, although it also contains a great deal of interest to Amiga owners too.

The Guide is being distributed via a number of PC magazines, but if you have trouble tracking a copy down, you can obtain one from Sally Roberts, US Robotics, 224 Berwick Avenue, Slough, Berkshire, SL1 4QT. Tel: 0753 811180.



BENEATH A STEEL SKY

FEATURING...

REVOLUTION'S INNOVATIVE VIRTUAL THEATRE SYSTEM AND STUNNING ARTWORK FROM AWARD-WINNING COMIC-BOOK ARTIST DAVE GIBBONS. BENEATH A STEEL SKY IS A GRIPPING SCIENCE FICTION THRILLER SET IN A BLEAK VISION OF THE FUTURE.

ROBERT FOSTER IS AN INNOCENT OUTSIDER STRANDED IN A VAST CITY WHERE OPPRESSED CIVILIANS LIVE AND WORK IN SOARING TOWER BLOCKS... WHILE THE CORRUPT, COVETOUS AND RICH LIE UNDERGROUND, SHIELDED FROM ALL POLLUTION.

ALONE, SAVE FOR A ROBOT CIRCUIT BOARD, FOSTER MUST FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL... AND DISCOVER THE SINISTER TRUTH BEHIND HIS ABDUCTION!

THE ONE 93%

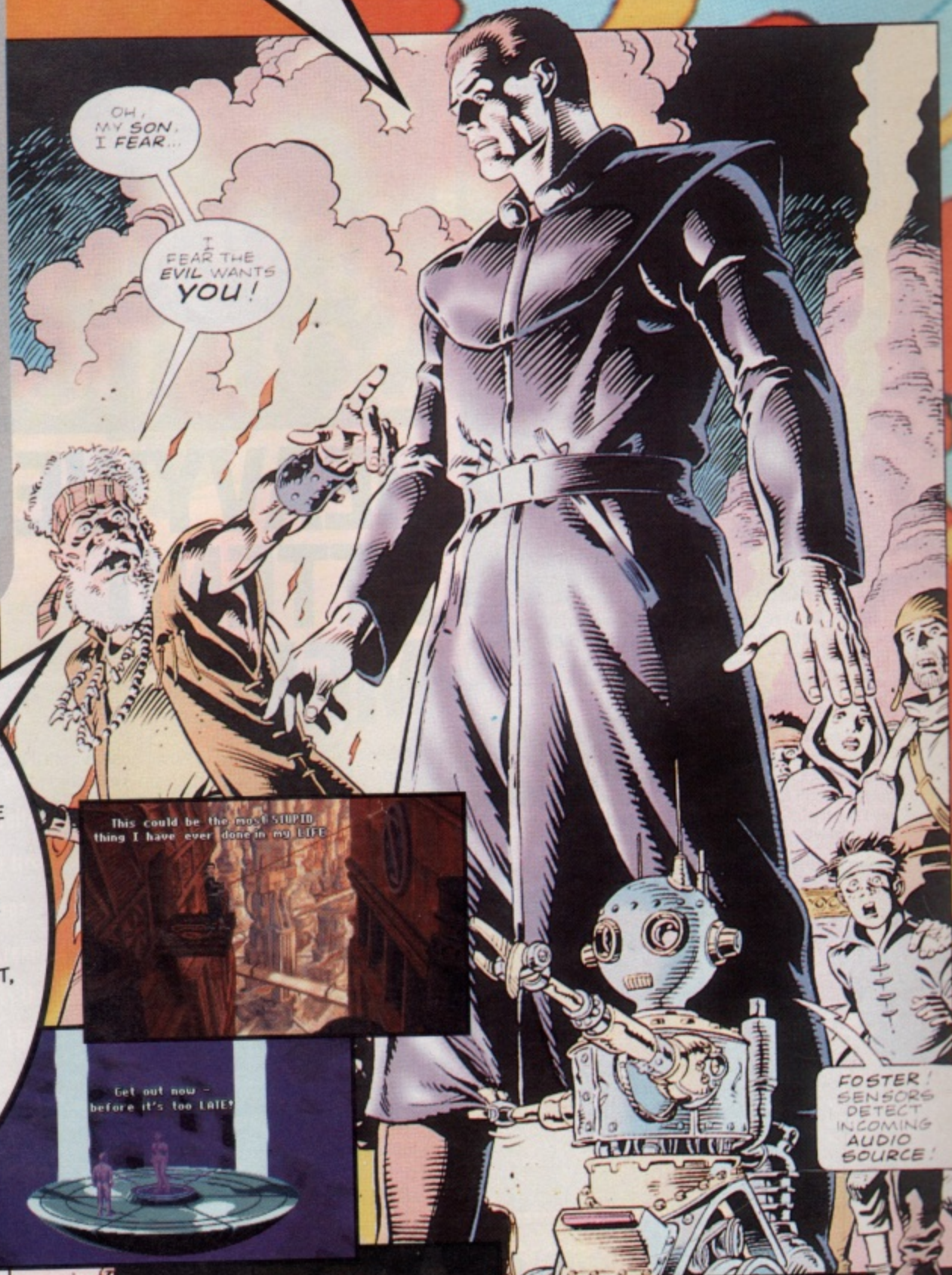
"... we were concerned when LucasArts announced they were going to leave the Amiga scene, but with Revolution currently producing stuff like this, who needs 'em?"

CU AMIGA 95%

"Simply one of the best adventures ever released on the Amiga"

AMIGA FORMAT 94% FORMAT GOLD

"... one of the most enjoyable graphic adventures to appear on the Amiga for a long time."



Virgin



SCREEN SHOTS MAY BE FROM A DIFFERENT VERSION

MEDIAPOINT LICENCES

Activa International have asked us to clarify the fact that users do NOT have to pay a licence to use their player program in an output mode only. However, if the player is used interactively as part of a communications network, a site licence of £150 per terminal is payable. The program itself has just fallen in price from £399 to £300.

Incidentally, Scala requires a site licence of £99 to be paid for each location that the player program is used, regardless of whether it forms part of an interactive network or not.

RUMOUR MILL



Commodore have just released another new A1200 based hardware/software package. Like the existing 'Desktop Dynamite' one, the 'Computer Combat' pack features a combination of games and applications. Included are a word processor - Wordworth 2, a personal organiser, graphics package - Personal Paint, and three games: Brian the Lion, Zool 2 and Total Carnage.

When talking to CU, Commodore also hinted that their existing, best selling, 'Desktop Dynamite' pack will be phased out in the Autumn. This will make way for an even newer pack, no details about it were available. The Computer Combat pack is priced at £349.

Oops Corner WORDWORTH 3 UPGRADE

Apologies to Meridian Distribution who have apparently been swamped with enquiries from Wordworth owners looking for details about the upgrade to version 3. We should have told you to go directly to Digita International. You can phone them on 0395 270273.

AMIGA GAMES Hints★Tips CHEATS & ADVENTURE SOLUTIONS

AMIGA GAMES BOOK

Serious Amiga gamers might be interested to know about a brand new Amiga games book which will help them to get the most out of their games. The book is absolutely choc-a-block with single line tips, cheat codes, walk-throughs and complete solutions.

Whether you've just come up against a temporary block, or you're crap at all games, this book can help you to improve. It contains, hundreds, if not thousands of hints suitable for everyone from the rawest beginner to the most seasoned expert.

It's called *Amiga Games, Hints, Tips, Cheats and Adventure Solutions* and you can get your copy from Kuma Books. For more details Tel: 0734 844335.

HEAVYWEIGHTS TO ATTEND MEMS

Wembley Exhibition Centre will play host the MIDI and Electronic Music Show (MEMS) from April 22nd to 24th, 1994. The show has traditionally provided a forum for leading edge music companies to display their latest products as well as touting existing wares. It also gives a stage to some of the most innovative musicians and producers to strut their funky stuff.

This year's show promises some exciting new products, including Yamaha's 'virtual acoustic synthesiser', and their new TG300 tone generator. Akai will be using a Virtual Reality system to advertise their new products. Roland will be showing their whole range, including the JV-90 and the E-series of 'intelligent' synths, while Korg will be wheeling out their showpieces from the recent Frankfurt Musikmesse.

Visitors will also be able to attend a number of seminars, while they'll also have the opportunity to speak to experts at question and answer sessions geared towards optimising user's music setups. Admission to the show will be £8 on the door, or £5 in advance. For more information, contact Westminster Exhibitions on 0222 512128.



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TFX

**R
E
V
I
E
W
S**

PC PLAYER



PC ACTION

90%

PC ZONE

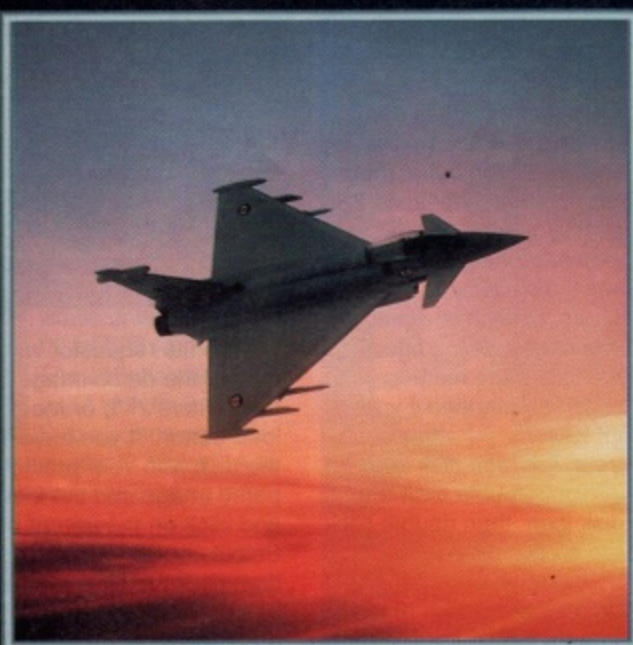
CLASSIC 90%

PC REVIEW

9/10

PC HOME

91%



"It's more than a straight flight sim; D.I.D. have emulated multi-million dollar flight simulators. When you play TFX the first thing that hits you is the detail of the landscape... over seven million square km appears on screen, with hills, roads and mountains all in the right place." THE EDGE

"The graphic detail is quite superb, with stunning visuals and strong sense of image, TFX is quite often like watching a movie... when I first saw TFX my jaw dropped so far it took me 15 minutes to find it again! It's fast, good looking and fun." PC REVIEW



Tactical Fighter Experiment... the only choice worth making where state of the art flight simulation is concerned.

Take control of one of three of the finest aircraft money can buy:

Eurofighter 2000

Lockheed F-22

Lockheed F-117 Stealth Fighter

TFX... a simulation at the cutting edge of aerial combat enhanced by unprecedented in-depth research and authentic flight detail. Take on the missions... fight for peace.

PC & COMPATIBLES

PC CD-ROM

AMIGA 1200

CD32

DIGITAL IMAGE DESIGN

ocean

DIGITAL IMAGE DESIGN



COVERDISK 78

ADORAGE

1.81

Stunning! A fully-featured video animation package is yours with Adorage 1.81!

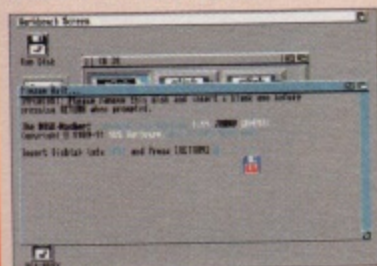
Adorage is a video effects package that specialises in creating professional quality wipes and fades. You supply it with a foreground IFF image, and an optional background image, select your desired effect, and Adorage renders a slick animation. For example, your production company logo could make an entrance onto the screen like an unfurled flag, or it could break up into lots of tiny pieces and blow away in the wind. It makes an excellent alternative to boring old scrolling credits. Why not transform your titles with your cast list exploding into the foreground, or add a bit of spice to that scene change with a neat roller-blind effect? Your friends will adore it!

YOUR QUICKSTART GUIDE TO LOADING DISK 78

Before you start, write protect your disk to prevent any mishaps. You'll need three spare disks, which can be either formatted or unformatted.



1 Insert Disk 78 into the internal floppy drive and turn the Amiga on.



2 Once the disk has booted up to a Workbench screen, double click the Disk 78 icon.

3 Double click the Task Force icon, and insert your first spare disk when the prompt tells you.

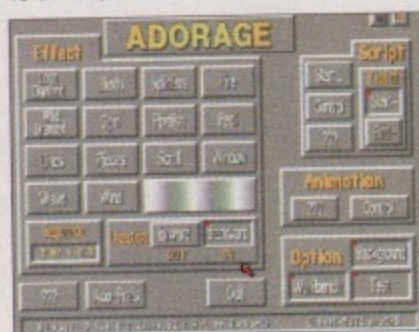
4 Replace Disk 78 when you're asked.

5 Repeat steps 3 and 4, first clicking on the Adorage icon and then on the MVK icon.

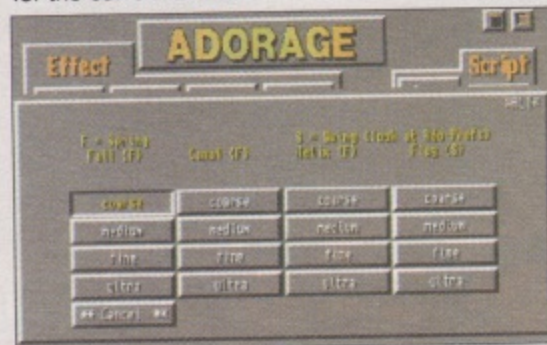
GETTING STARTED

Adorage creates very smooth animations, but at the price of fairly heavy memory usage. If you've got a 1Mb Amiga, the first thing you need to do is create a lo-res interlaced 2 colour image. Do this with *Deluxe Paint* or something similar, and save it out to a blank disk. If you try to use the demo image on the Adorage disk with just 1Mb, you'll run out of memory. Even using lo-res interlaced 2 colour images, you may come up against memory problems. These can manifest themselves as crashes, partial lock-ups, or simple "out of memory" messages. Some effects will require a little more memory than others, so don't be alarmed if your first attempt fails.

Insert your Adorage disk and reset the Amiga. Double click the Adorage disk icon, then double click the Adorage program icon. The main control panel will pop up after a few seconds. Take a look at the available effects on the left-hand panel, and click one of them with the left mouse button.



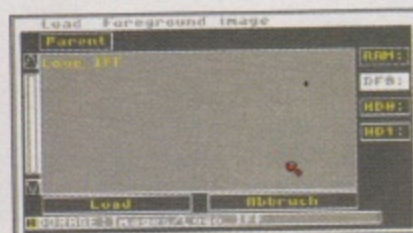
A second panel will appear, which will vary depending on the effect you've chosen. As a rule, Adorage always has the suggested option highlighted in yellow, so if in doubt, choose that one. In this case though, you can pick any one you like. The options you see here are variables for the current effect.



Now you'll be asked to specify the foreground image. As you won't have loaded anything yet, click on File Select. If you've previously loaded an image, and you want to use it again, click on Image Repeat.



The file requester will be set up to load the demo image "Logo_1FF". If you have 2Mb or more, click the load button. If you have 1Mb, insert the disk with your previously prepared image into the internal drive, and click on the parent button. Select cancel from the requester, then click the DF0: button. Now select the filename of your image and click on Load.

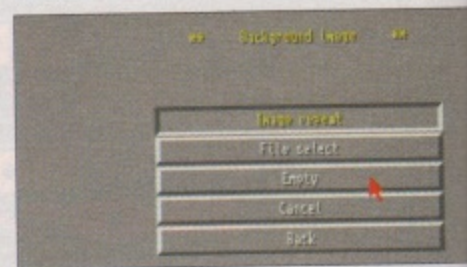


Your image will be displayed until you click the mouse.



The next panel asks you to choose your background image. To keep things simple, it's best to select the Empty option at this point. This will use a plain black screen as the background, and will save memory. If you have enough free memory, you could choose another

image from disk, or use one from the previous animation. The background and foreground images must be in the same resolution, with the same number of colours.



Next you can define a specific part of the image to be processed. If you want the whole screen to be affected, click on Full Image. If you want to specify a certain area, then choose With Mouse. In this case you'll be able to cordon off a rectangular section of the screen with the mouse. Holding down the left mouse button and dragging the mouse will alter the size of the selection window. To move the window, drag it with the bar at the top. Once you've got the window in position, click in the small square in the top left corner. Click on Use Previous Position.

The animation recording panel is



up next. Should you want to adjust the colour balance of either the foreground or the background image, click on Define Colour. Use the sliders to change the amounts of red, green and blue in each colour of the image. Move through the palette with the plus and minus buttons. Click OK when you're happy with it.

Finally, to render the animation,

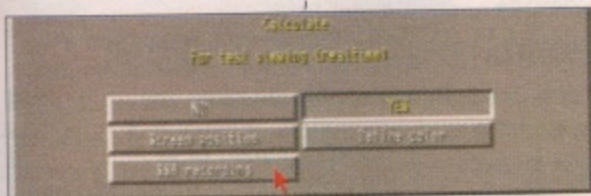


SOUND SAMPLES

After we'd crammed all the main programs onto Disk 78, there was just room for a couple of high quality samples from our resident sound expert Tony Horgan's expansive sample library. Both are in standard IFF format and can be used with OctaMED, Protracker, or in fact any Amiga sound program you could think of. To try them out, just double click their icons.

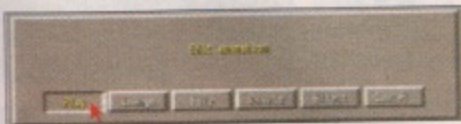


click the SSA Recording button. Your animation will now be rendered. When the rendering is done, you'll be returned to the main control panel.



PLAYING THE ANIMATION

Now you've got an animation in RAM, you can play it back in real-time. Click on the Control button on the Animation panel on the right of the screen. Click on the Play button, and you'll see the first frame of your animation. A click on the left mouse button will start the animation playing. Use the right mouse button to exit back to the main control panel.



To save your animation, click on the File option from the animation control panel. Insert a disk with plenty of space on it into DF0:. Click on the Parent button, then cancel the requestor, and click on the DF0: button. Click in the bottom box of the file requestor, and delete any text that may be there. Replace it with DF0:myanim. You can of course change "myanim" to the filename of your choice.

If you have enough available memory, you can chain one effect after another, to make a more complex animation. Just select a new effect, and it will be tagged onto the last one. The forward/backward direction buttons define whether the effect wipes onto or off the screen.

There are times when you might want to replay your animations from outside the main Adorage program. In this case, you'll need to use the

AdoPlay program included on the disk. This must be used from CLI or the Shell. The usage is `AdoPlay <filename> [options]`. So, if you wanted to play an animation called

My Anim from a disk in the internal drive, you would enter `ADO-PLAYDF0:MYANIM`.

The options are M (start with the mouse), E (play once only), E

,x. (play x times), and D (delay). Add any of these options to the line after the filename.

OPTIONS

There are plenty of ways to tailor the Adorage program to your specific requirements. Clicking on the ADO Prefs button on the main control panel gives you access to the options screen. If you find that the display is slightly off to one side, use the Screen Position option to centre it up on your screen. Move the display around with the cursor keys.

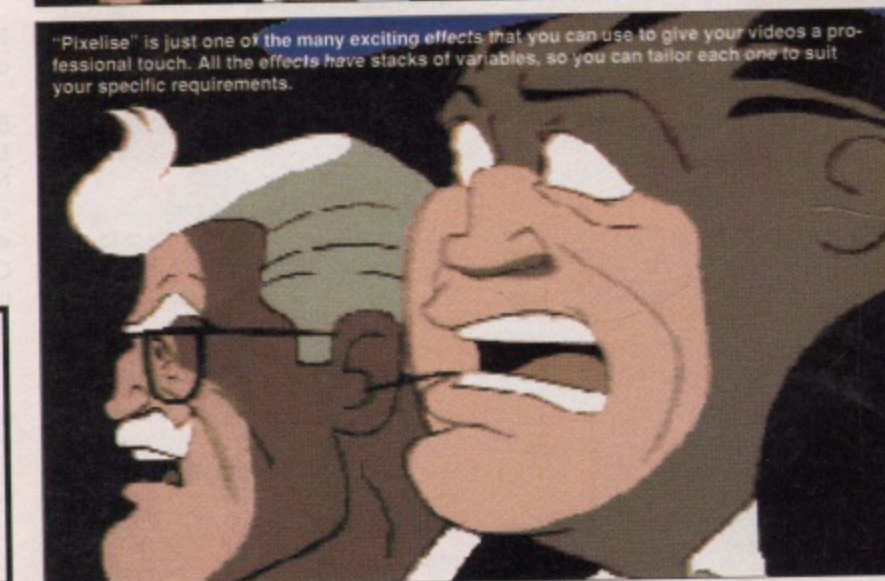
You can choose whether you want your animations saved out as IFF files or SSA files. SSA files are incompatible with standard Amiga animation packages such as DPaint, but benefit from smoother playback with the AdoPlay player. Switching to FF will give you compatibility with any other Amiga animation package. A one second pause between each effect is the default, but you can change this to no delay, or increase the delay in steps of one second. Spring Intensity gives you control over the "springiness" of the effects. **CU**

IMPORTANT NOTE

Because of the way in which the super smooth animation system works, Adorage can only work with interlaced images. If you want to use an image that is not interlaced, take it into a paint program such as Deluxe Paint, stretch it vertically so that it's double the height of the original, and then save it as an interlaced screen.



"Pixelise" is just one of the many exciting effects that you can use to give your videos a professional touch. All the effects have stacks of variables, so you can tailor each one to suit your specific requirements.



PARNET PROBLEMS?

Having been besieged by queries on *ParNet*, John Kennedy has finally relented and decided to give us the lowdown the most common *ParNet* problems.

ParNet is a program which can be used to link Amigas. It does this by creating a new Amiga device, rather like a floppy or hard disk. This device can then be used to access the memory and drives from the other computers.

ParNet will work on any Amiga, from an A4000 to a CDTV. We have successfully used it to interconnect an A4000, an A500, an A1200 and a CDTV, which just about covers every kickstart and workbench combination going. When the CD32 add-on becomes available, it should be possible to add this to the list.

PROBLEMS

However, that is not to say that getting *ParNet* working is particularly easy, it requires a good bit of experimentation before it works perfectly every time.

By the far the most common mistakes are made with the cable. So, check and re-check the special cable as per the instructions in the document that came with the *ParNet* software.

My set-up behaved erratically until it was discovered that one of the parallel port connects had to be screwed fully into place before the correct connections were made.

Also, ensure that you don't have a modem or any other peripheral connected to the serial port, as this can sometimes effect operation.

SOFTWARE

The purpose of the *ParNet* software is to create a new AmigaDOS device, and this requires a little work on your behalf.

1. BOOTABLE DISKS

To start with, you will need two bootable Workbench disks; one for each of your computers. You will need two different disks, you can't share one between the both of them.

These disks must be configured so that each machine has the relevant files, for example, a CDTV must have a 1.3 Workbench, and an A1200 must have a 3.0 Workbench.

Call the disks number 0 and 1

respectively, and write the number on them to avoid confusion. Rename the disks DISK0 and DISK1 using the Workbench rename command.

2. INSTALLING THE SOFTWARE

First of all, you will need to get the software all together in one place, and the RAM disk is a good a place as any. Open a Shell window, and copy the contents of the directory into the RAM: disk, with a command sequence like this:

```
copy "cu #74:parnet/" ram:
If you only have one floppy disk drive, you might need to enter RESIDENT COPY to avoid a lot of disk swapping.
```

You will need the double quotes because there is a space in the name of the floppy disk. You should now have all the relevant files in your RAM disk.

3. CREATING THE DISKS

Each bootable disk will need several files copied to it. For the first disk, open a SHELL and enter:

```
copy ram:parnet.device
disk0:devs/
copy ram:netpnet-handler
disk0:l/
copy ram:netpnet-server
disk0:c/
```

For the second disk, open a SHELL and enter:

```
copy ram:parnet.device
disk1:devs/
copy ram:netpnet-handler
disk1:l/
copy ram:netpnet-server
disk1:c/
```

4. ALTERING THE MOUNTLIST

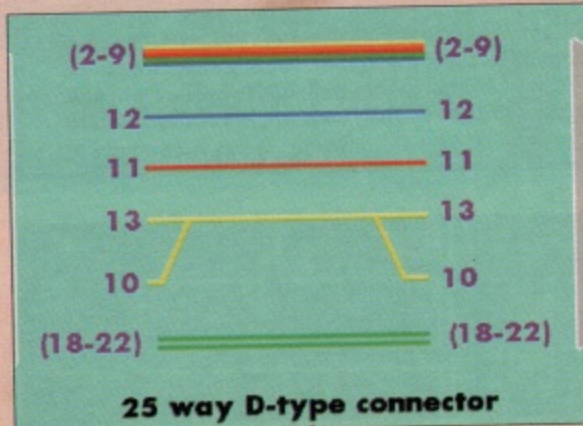
Pre-Workbench 3.0 computers need a file called the Mountlist. This file contains information about the various drives and devices connected to the Amiga. Workbench 3.0 keeps this information in ROM.

If your computer is pre-Workbench 3.0, you will need to edit the existing mountlist. You can do this with the Commodore text editor ED.

If your computer is using Workbench 3.0 you will need to add a new Mountlist. Again, ED can be used to do this.

From the shell, enter the following list:

```
ed DISK0:devs/mountlist
and then add the following:
```



```
NET:      Stacksize = 8000
Priority   = 5
GlobVec   = -1
Unit      = 0
Device    = devs:parnet.device
Surfaces  = 0
BlocksPerTrack = 0
Reserved  = 0
LowCyl    = 0
HighCyl   = 0
Filesystem = l:netpnet-
            handler
#
```

Then do the same for DISK1:
ed DISK1:devs/mountlist
and add the following:

```
NET:      Stacksize = 8000
Priority   = 5
GlobVec   = -1
Unit      = 1
Device    = devs:parnet.device
Surfaces  = 0
BlocksPerTrack = 0
Reserved  = 0
LowCyl    = 0
HighCyl   = 0
Filesystem = l:netpnet-
            handler
#
```

Notice how the UNIT number has changed to be 1.

5. STARTING THE COMPUTER LINK

Now switch the computers off, connect the cable and reboot them with their respective floppy disks. Open a SHELL window. Now, on the computer which has used DISK0, enter:

```
NETPNET-SERVER UNIT 1
```

This instructs the computer to run a server program for the UNIT 0 machine.

On the computer which has the DISK1 boot disk enter:

```
NETPNET-SERVER UNIT 0
```

You may wish to add these instruc-

tions to the user-startup sequence (or start upll files on Workbench 1.3 systems.)

The network should now be running, but you probably won't see anything yet.

6. USING THE LINK

Open a shell on one computer, and enter

```
cd net:
After a few seconds you should see a new icon appear. Still in the shell, enter:
```

```
cd net:df0
```

Now you can access the other machine's floppy disk by using commands such as

```
dir net:df0
```

Hard disks, printers, serial ports and RAM disks and CD-ROM drives can accessed in the same way.

7. USING A HARD DISK

If one or more of the computers has a hard disk, you'll need to copy the files into the relevant L:, C: and DEVS: drawer, and everything will still work in the same way.

8. APPLICATIONS

A common application of *ParNet* is to add a CD-ROM drive to another Amiga. For example, an A1200 can be linked to a CDTV. The A1200 can then access the CD-ROM drive by using device name cd0:.

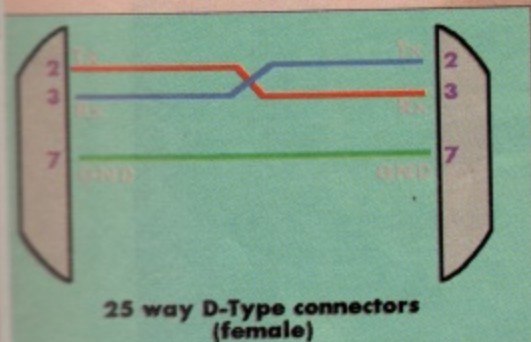
EVEN MORE HELP...

Sometimes a particular system will misbehave for no good reason. Here is a list of things to check:

- * Is the cable perfect?
- * Are there any small programs running in the background?
- * Has a good virus checking program been used?
- * Are you trying to use the parallel/printer port?
- * Is a modem connected?
- * Have both machines been reset together?

Please read the supplied *ParNet* documentation carefully. If you are still having problems, don't despair! The PD Library 17 Bit sell preconfigured floppy disks - one for each machine. They also sell a disk which contains in-depth help on *ParNet*. Telephone them on (0924) 366982 for details.

A new update to *ParNet* is available, called ParNFS. This fixes a few bugs and generally works faster. It requires Workbench 2.0 and up, but will work on a CDTV if you ask nicely and it's PD as well! **CU**



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'WHIRLWIND' snooker**



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Elite plus programming © Chris Sawyer.
*Elite replaces Elite Plus on Amiga versions

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Impressive as the 3D is, it's only one aspect of a game chockfull of brilliant features. PC Review 9

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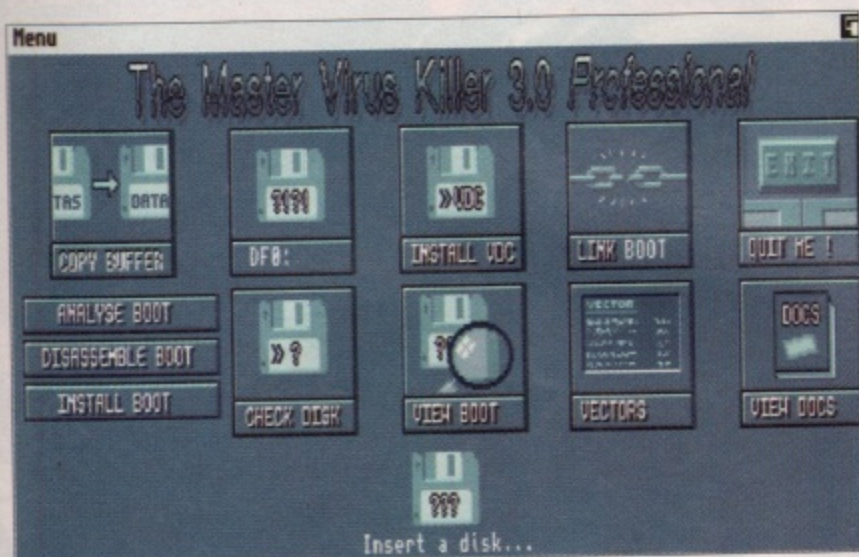
empire
S O F T W A R E



COVERDISK78

Master Virus Killer 3 (MVK3) is a super program which can be used to detect and kill viruses, as well as offering protection against future infection. You can also use the program as a handy virus reference source as it contains lists of all known viruses and boot blocks.

MASTER VIRUS KILLER 3



Master Virus Killer 3 Professional is the long awaited commercial follow up to one of the Amiga world's most popular virus killers.

A virus is a small electronic program which has been created by malicious and sad people who have absolutely nothing worthwhile to do with their lives. A virus is always self-replicating and most are harmful to a greater or lesser degree. Some damage your disks as an inadvertent side effect of replication, whilst others are custom designed to destroy your data.

Fortunately, to date, all viruses are detectable, and can be eradicated with the right software tools. Master Virus Killer 3 is the latest state-of-the-art virus killing tool.

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION

There's an old saying that 'An ounce

DISCLAIMER

Neither CU AMIGA, nor any of its employees can be held responsible for any damage that the use of this program (correct or otherwise) may cause. MVK 2 is perfectly safe when used carefully in knowledgeable hands, but it has the potential to damage your commercial software, especially games. Non-standard boot sectors used by on-disk protection can be read as viruses by the package. If in doubt, do not rewrite the boot sector. Read carefully.

of prevention is better than a pound of cure'. And that was never more true than where viruses are concerned because, generally speaking, they're extremely easy to protect against. There are four simple measures that you can take to safeguard yourself.

1. Keep your disks write-protected at all times. Because viruses replicate themselves by writing to any unprotected disks, you can stop them dead in their tracks by simply ensuring that the write protect tab (the little black slider) is in the up position on

all of your disks. As long as you can see through the hole, the disk is 100% safe from infection.

2. Turn the power off for at least 20 seconds before loading any program that involves unprotected disks. Obviously, there will be times when you'll need to unprotect some disks, in order to save data to them. This is when they become vulnerable. If you've previously used an infected disk, chances are that the virus is now sitting in your computer's memory waiting to infect any other unprotected disks. Such viruses cannot remain alive in memory if you turn the power off for at least 20 seconds, so when you know you're going to use a program that requires unprotected disks, play it safe, and power down first.

3. Don't accept pirated software. The primary distributor of viruses is the pirate network. So, by accepting games from your mates, or buying software under the counter or from boot sales, not only do you hurt the industry, but you risk hurting your Amiga and its data too.

4. Always check any new disks thoroughly with one or more virus killers. Although commercial programs and cover disks are extremely unlikely to be infected, it has happened several times in the past. Furthermore, I've encountered many



MVK's Info option lets you get basic information of any floppy disk.

virus infected disks bought from reputable public domain companies too. So never assume that virus checking is someone else's job, after all, it's your data that's at risk!

INSTALLING THE PROGRAM

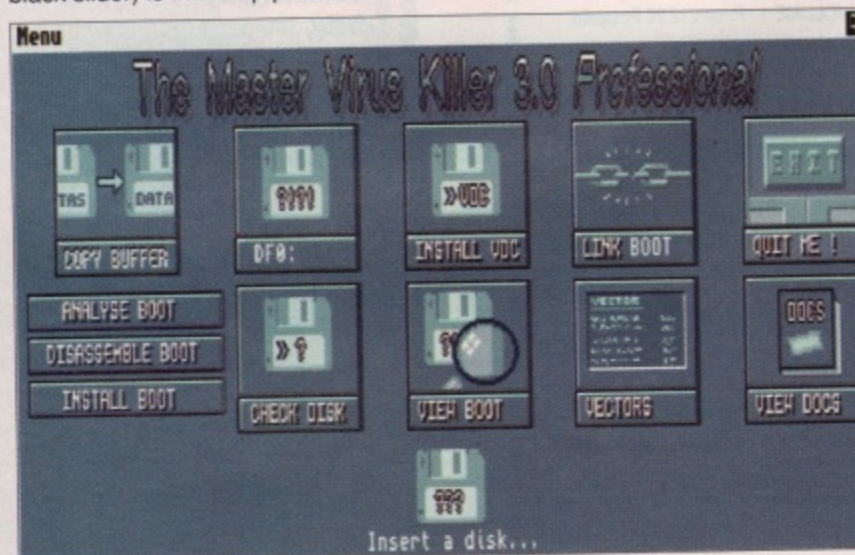
First of all, follow the instructions earlier on these pages for expanding the program onto its own disk.

If you don't have a hard drive, or you don't want to install the program to hard disk, you can load the program immediately from floppy disk. To do this, simply switch off your computer, place the floppy disk in the internal drive and turn the computer on again. After a short while, the title screen will appear. Click the right mouse button to continue, and the you'll see the Workbench screen which contains the MVK icon. Double click on this icon and a window will open containing the MVK3 drawer. Now double click on this, and the MVK3 icon it contains. The program will load fully and in less than a minute you'll be greeted by the blue-grey main program screen.

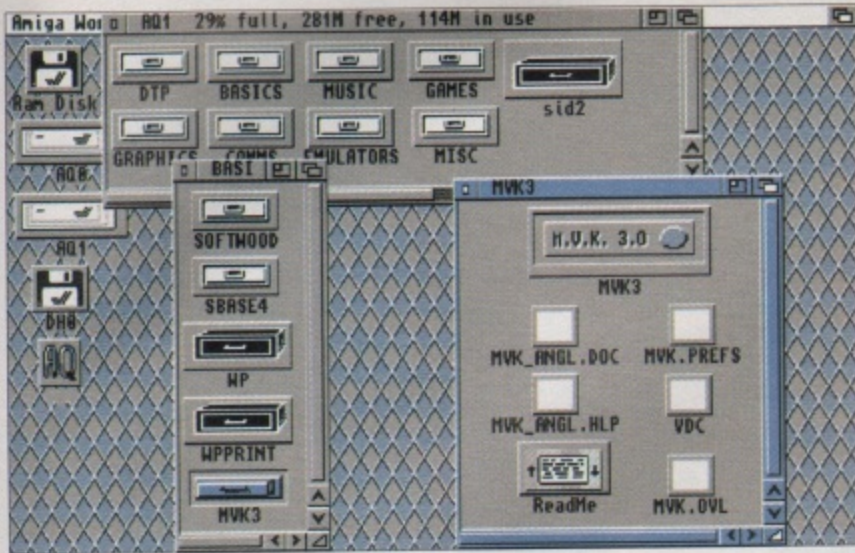
If you wish to install the program on to your hard drive, boot it in the normal way, then insert the MVK3 disk and double click on the MVK3 icon. Inside the window that opens, you'll see an icon labelled 'Install_MVK3'. Double click on that to begin the installation.

Simply follow the on-screen prompts, and the program will install Master Virus Killer for you automatically.

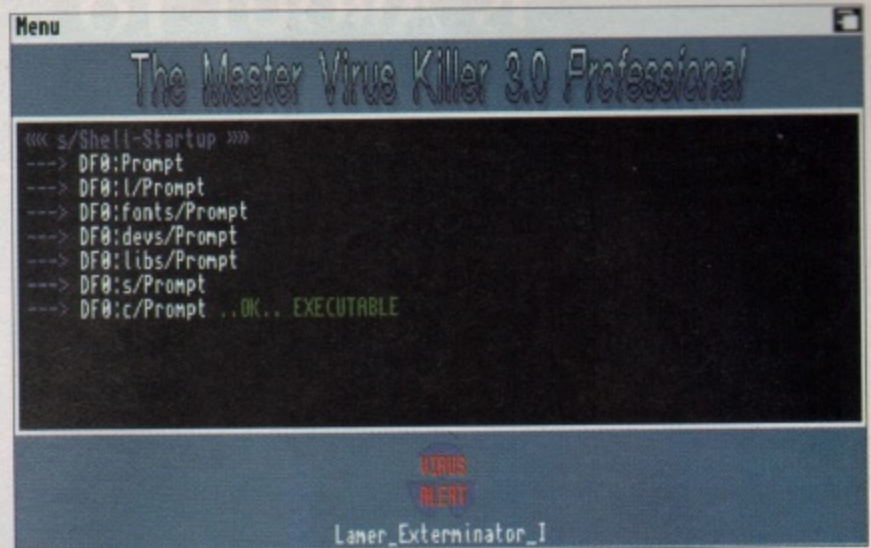
To load the program, simply go to the drawer where you told the program to install itself and you'll find an



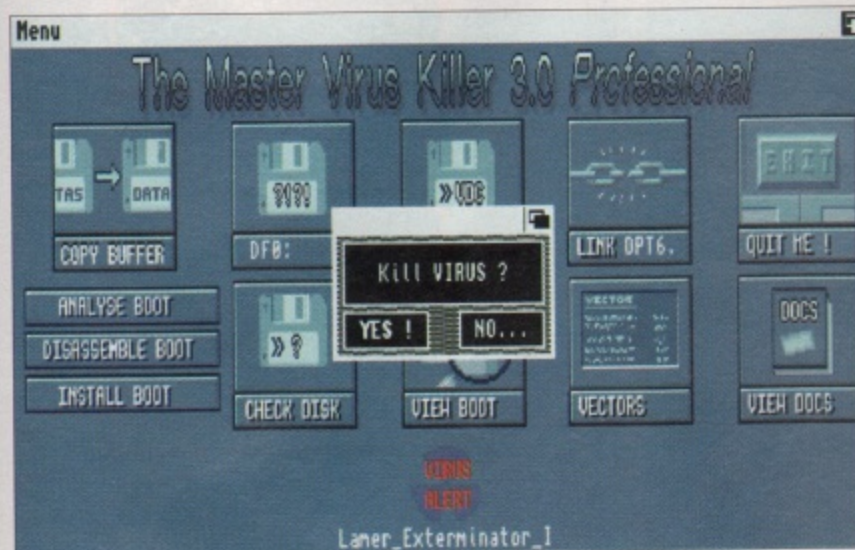
Viruses will lurk in memory waiting to damage your disks. Master Virus' Vectors option lets you examine the relevant areas of RAM for suspicious looking code.



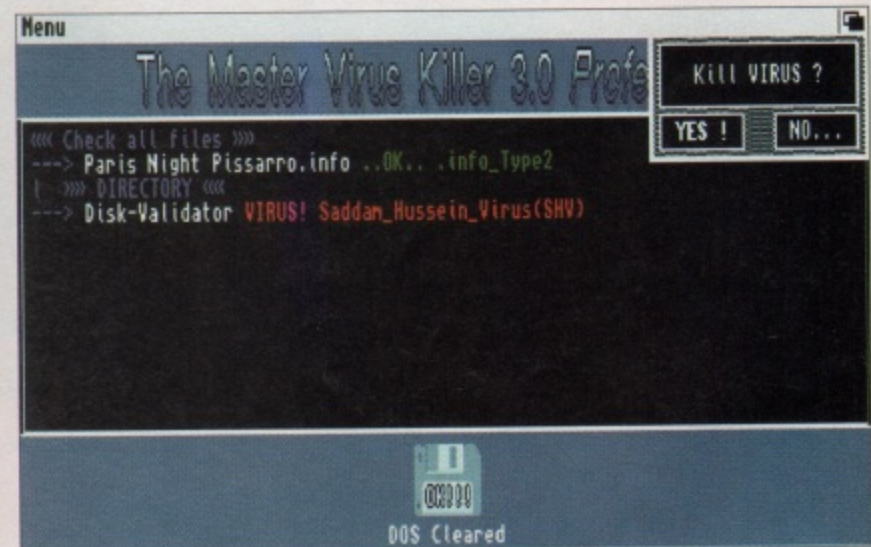
The program can be automatically installed onto your hard drive, from which it will load an awful lot faster.



The program can perform a complete check of every single file on an AmigaDOS disk.



If MVK3 detects a virus it will sound a siren and show you a screen similar to this one.



The Saddam Validator virus is one of the nastier file viruses. To find it, you'll need to do more than the standard boot check.



You can see lists of all known boot blocks (safe and otherwise) by checking out the Lists menu at the top of the screen.

MVK3 drawer. Double click both that, and the MVK3 icon within and the program will be loaded.

USING THE PROGRAM

Once the program has loaded, you'll see the blue-grey main screen. At its simplest, the MVK3 will automatically check the boot block of any floppy disks inserted in any drives. If it detects a known virus, a warning noise will sound, and the words 'Virus Alert' will appear, followed by the name of the virus. A requester will then pop up asking if you want to kill the virus. If you click on Yes, then the virus will be eliminated. Tough if you choose, the virus will be left on the disk.

Please note* If one of your game disks becomes infected, killing the virus will often render the disk unus-

able. A general rule of thumb is that if the game loads even though the disk is infected with a virus, then killing the virus will not hurt the game. However, if the game no longer loads, chances are that the virus has already done its work and killing it will not restore the disk. However, it will at least, prevent the infection from spreading. Games which boot from their own version of Workbench, are usually more tolerant of viruses than games which include their own special loaders and which feature on-

disk protection.

If a virus is not detected, the program can still return a great number of messages. These are designed to tell you more about the boot block of your disks, and will probably name the exact type of boot block that has been encountered.

NON BOOT BLOCK VIRUSES

Unfortunately, although boot block viruses are by far the most common type, there are also many even more

virulent ones, including Startup-sequence, link and file viruses. MVK3 does not automatically check for these, although it's a simple matter to do so.

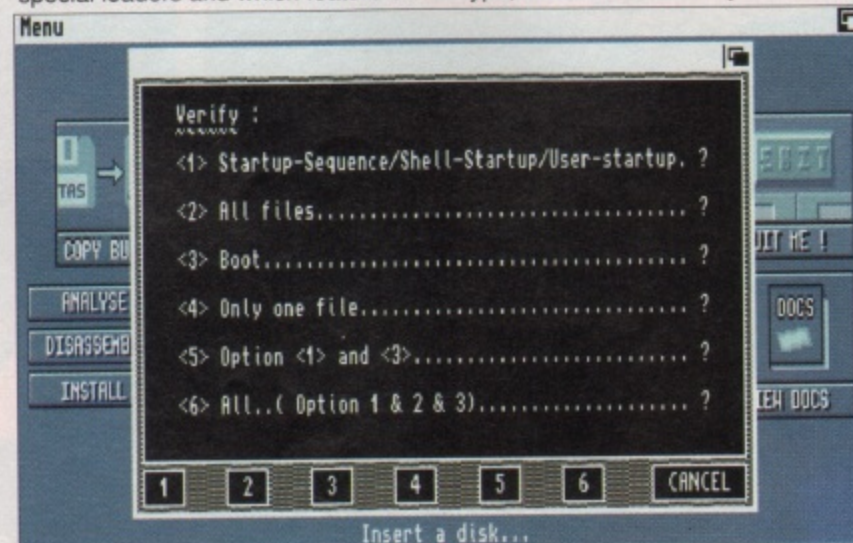
To perform a complete check for every possible virus type, click on the Link Icon. A requester will open showing the various virus search options. Select option 6 by clicking box 6 at the bottom of the screen. The requester will disappear.

To demonstrate that the option works, insert a DOS disk (the Workbench disk will do). You'll notice that the program automatically checks the disk's boot block as before. Now click the Check Disk icon. A new window will appear, and MVK3 will start to list all of the files on the disk as it checks them. It will also OK them (as well as telling you what type of files they are) as it finds out that they're safe.

If a virus is detected, you will be offered the opportunity to kill it.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

MVK3 can also protect your disks against future infection. It does this by installing a special program called Virus Detector Cleaner (VDC). This program adds itself to the startup-sequence of any disk it's installed on



The Link Boot icon lets you decide exactly what type of viruses to look for. Although it takes much longer, I always use option six which looks for every type.

THE NIGHTMARE
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You can choose to look at the boot block of any suspect disks using the Viewboot option. Here you see the Mighty Byte Warrior virus as a boot block. Notice the tell tale letters "DASA" in the middle of the code. Programmers might prefer to view an assembly listing of the boot code. Fortunately, MVK3 can even provide that.

to, and when the disk is booted, the program activates itself, checking the computer's memory to ensure a virus isn't present. It will not allow viruses to infect any disks it's installed on to.

To install VDC onto a disk, first ensure that the disk isn't write protected, then insert it into any drive and click the VDC icon. The process only takes a few seconds.

When a disk containing VDC loads, early on in the loading sequence the screen will briefly flash blue and a bleep will be heard.

Warning! Do not install this program unless you're certain that it won't damage the programs on the disk. Generally it's safe to install on programs which load via any version of Workbench, and unsafe to use it on programs which have their own custom loaders, especially games.

IF YOUR DISK WON'T LOAD

If your coverdisk doesn't seem to work as it should, then follow this simple guideline. Firstly, remove all unnecessary peripherals, such as printers, modems etc. Follow the instructions on these pages to the letter, and if after that you find that the disk still doesn't work, call the PC Wise helpline on 0685 350505 between 1030 and 1230 Monday to Friday. If they advise you that the disk is faulty, then pop it in an envelope with a covering letter explaining the problems to:

CU DISK RETURNS, PC WISE,
DOWLAIS TOP BUSINESS PARK,
MERTHYR TYDFIL, MID GLAMORGAN
CF46 2YY.

Please include 28p per disk to cover postage and packing (55p for overseas readers). Your disk will be tested and a new, working one dispatched to you as soon as possible. Please note that neither we nor PC Wise accept responsibility for any disk damaged due to negligence on the part of the user.

DISK VIRUSES

We try to ensure that viruses do not get on your disks. We always have the most advanced virus checkers available when the disk is compiled and every program goes through rigorous testing. However, we can accept no responsibility for possible damage incurred by viruses which have escaped our attention.

TASK FORCE



A well-drilled team of crack commandos are under your control from start to finish. Keeping them in a star formation might look neat, but it's not the best tactical move!

Task Force is a strategy game for one player. It's very much in the vein of titles such as Breach 2 and Dragon Force. There are a number of missions, but all involve you guiding a team of 5 soldiers around the landscape, shooting or dodging the enemy.

Once the game has loaded, you'll find yourself at the main options screen. There are six options:
Play = Start a new game using the current settings
Difficulty = Easy, Normal, Hard or Mega.
Music = On or off
Seed Taskforce = Allows you to enter a ten letter initial value which determines many of the pseudo-random events in the game, including your team's power, and that of the opposition. This allows you to play the same missions under a variety of conditions. The same ten letters produce the same conditions.
Centre Play = On or off. Tells the computer to move the map so that the current character is at its centre.
Instructions = Find out more about the game.



As Monty probably once said, "you can have all the guns in the world, but if you don't organise your troops properly, you might get blown up", so heed those wise words, and plan your assault carefully.

dom events in the game, including your team's power, and that of the opposition. This allows you to play the same missions under a variety of conditions. The same ten letters produce the same conditions. Centre Play = On or off. Tells the computer to move the map so that the current character is at its centre. Instructions = Find out more about the game.

STARTING OUT

Once you've selected Play, you'll go to the mission selection screen where you can select one of the

eight missions to attempt. Clicking the next and previous buttons at the bottom of the screen allows you to view the different missions. The Map button will display the map associated with the current mission, whilst the Orders button will re-display the mission text.

When you've chosen a mission, click the red Next button at the top of the screen to go to the team supply screen, where you will choose the equipment that your team will carry.

The team members can be selected by clicking on their icons at the top left of the screen, whilst equipment can be chosen from the list at the right by clicking on the required item, then on the Equip button.

Each team member has a random, but strictly limited amount of cash, indicated by the number next to the money bag icon. Naturally each piece of equipment has a price attached to it, and once your money's gone, that's it.

When your ready to begin your mission, click Next again.

PLAYING THE GAME

The game is played in alternating movement and combat rounds. You use the movement rounds to position your troops and the combat round to do any fighting that needs to be done.

Each member of your team has a certain movement allowance, which is different from character to character. According to their choice of weapons, they also have various combat ranges.

The game starts in movement mode. The character whose turn it is to move, will flash briefly. Using either the keyboard cursor keys, or the mouse and the green on-screen arrows, move the character wherever you want them to go.

As soon as they run out of movement points, their turn will be over and the next character will flash. If you want to end a character's turn before they've used all of their points, click on the Pass button.

You can scroll around the map by simply moving the mouse to the edges of the screen.

Once everyone's moved, you will go straight into the Fire phase. This is where you get to shoot at people if you want. Start by selecting a weapon from the selection shown below the current character's picture at the left of the screen. You must then select a target. Move the cursor on top of the target using the mouse. If the target is in range, a square will appear around them. To shoot, click the left button.

Every shot you or the enemy fires takes into account the distance to the target, the type of weapon, the shooter's accuracy and a small random factor. This means that just because you appear to score a hit, doesn't mean that the victim necessarily dies.



Each man can be sent off on his own mini-mission, so you can get up to all sorts of war filmjapery, such as shouting "cover me, I'm going in!" as you race up to the entrance of the enemy HQ.

The enemy also has a variety of logic modes which determines the way that they will react to your presence. Reactions include standing their ground, running away and running towards you returning fire.

The game is over when you either achieve your mission or run out of squad members.

INFO

Task Force was written by Mark Sheeky who is 21 years old and lives in Crewe. Mark has entered just about every CU competition in history. In fact he even managed to win our Tune of the Month competition a couple of years back. He's been regularly producing shareware and public domain games, and he writes in 100% assembly language.

Mark wrote all the code, designed the graphics and wrote the music for Task Force.

If you write software and would like to see it published, and even perhaps earn a little bit of money into the bargain, send your contributions to:

Andy Leaning, Coverdisk Submissions, CU Amiga, Priory Court, 30-32 Farrington Lane, London, EC1R 3AU.

**OFFER ONE!
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CRAFT

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If you want to use your CRAFT for AMOS coverdisk to its full and maximum potential and unleash the massive powers within, why not purchase the original program's manual at the special price of just £9.99?

CRAFT will give AMOS possibilities and commands that up until now you could only have dreamed of; it will shortly become an integral extension to AMOS and you'll wonder how you ever managed without it!

Here's a mere selection of the doors CRAFT will open for both beginner and expert with its over 160 new instruction and functions:

- Colour-handling including multi-palette banks and colour spreading.
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- Turtle graphics.

The comprehensively written 65-page manual will give you all the information needed on each command and include many useful examples.

The manual is easy to use, thanks to its good layout and the inclusion of a most helpful glossary.

The handbook is written both for beginners and experienced users alike and also offers interesting background information on subjects such as Mandlebrot and Julia fractals.

If you want to get the most out of your coverdisk (and AMOS), then there's no time to waste – fill out the coupon below and return it without delay!

We have another special offer for CU AMIGA AMOS enthusiasts... Now that you have read about and been able to test CRAFT for AMOS, we can offer you the complete boxed version for just £19.99! (It usually retails in the shops for £25.99.) And this includes a free budget game from the Legend label, valued at £9.99!

You get the complete boxed version of CRAFT for AMOS, including disks and handbooks; plus one of these highly playable brand-new titles; *Megamotion*, *Hyperion*, *Summer Camp*, *Winter Camp*, *Hungary For Fun* or *Creatures* (worth £9.99 each) for free!

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AMIGA
All Models

AMOS





Not content with bringing you the first review of Sierra's new adventure, we're even giving away a complete demo of the game. Steve Keen guides you through this fab game.

QUICKSTART GUIDE TO LOADING DISK 79

First the completely obvious stuff. Not everyone's a closet boffin or polyester clad Clive Sinclair you know. Here's the bare basics you need to know to get this month's incredible cover piece up and running like a diarrheic greyhound.

Follow our step by step, fool proof and fancy free disk routine and you'll have no problem jumping straight into the action.

1 It couldn't be simpler. Firstly write protect the disk.

2 Now place your protected coverdisk in the drive and turn on your computer. The programme will boot up automatically.

3 Lastly, using the F keys, select the game that you want to play and away you go!

You start off life on the beach surrounded by lots of wreckage.

COVERDISK 79

KINGS QUEST VI

PLAYABLE DEMO

This month's fantastic playable demo is Sierra's latest graphic adventure, *Kings Quest VI*. It's just a small taste of what's to come when the full game is released, but what an appetiser this is! The final game is a whopping size, due to weigh in on no less than nine disks, so space on this month's cover disk is tighter than an elephant's underpants! Enough idle chat though, why not plug in, sit back and let the adventure begin.

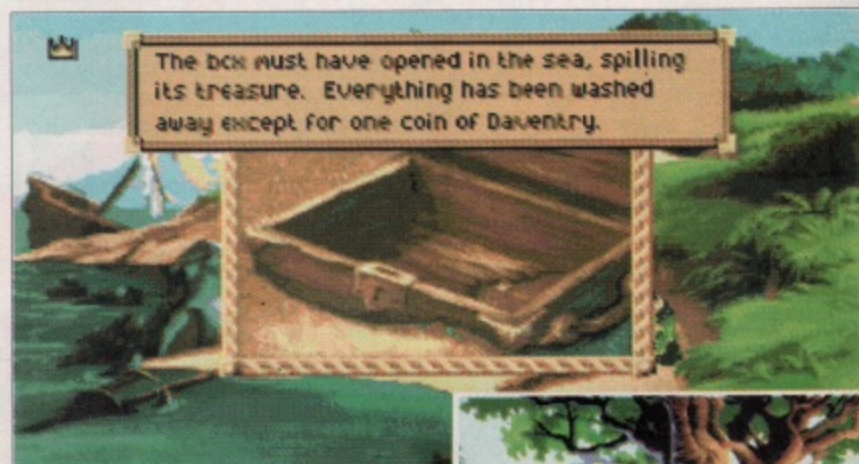
First, let me fill you in quickly on the background details. The game's plot is thicker than a whale omelet, but for now all you need to know is that the prince in question is paying a visit to his would-be girlfriend, Princess Cassima. While on the way the ship he's travelling in is struck by a ferocious storm and, as the gargantuan waves lick the deck, the hopeful young lad is knocked unconscious.

Fortunately for you that's not the end of the tale (it would be a bit of a swindle if it was) and an amazing adventure awaits the Prince on the four islands belonging to his royal beau. The puzzles and path the game follows is bound to prove problematic for a small section of our non adventuring readers, so with the help of those excellent programming bods at Revolution, we have put together this complete walk through guide to the demo. So close your eyes if you don't want any help... no peeking now!

Once you've finally completed the demo, turn to page 73 for the full, exclusive, review of this monster game! So, what are you waiting for people? Get stuck in!



A quick dig in the sand reveals buried treasure.



CONTROLLING THE BEAST

Here's a quick rundown of the simple controls. The whole game is mouse led. You'll notice that the cursor constantly changes shape. These are the different actions that you can perform. Walk, talk, touch and look. The fifth icon is reserved for any objects



Follow the yellow brick road.

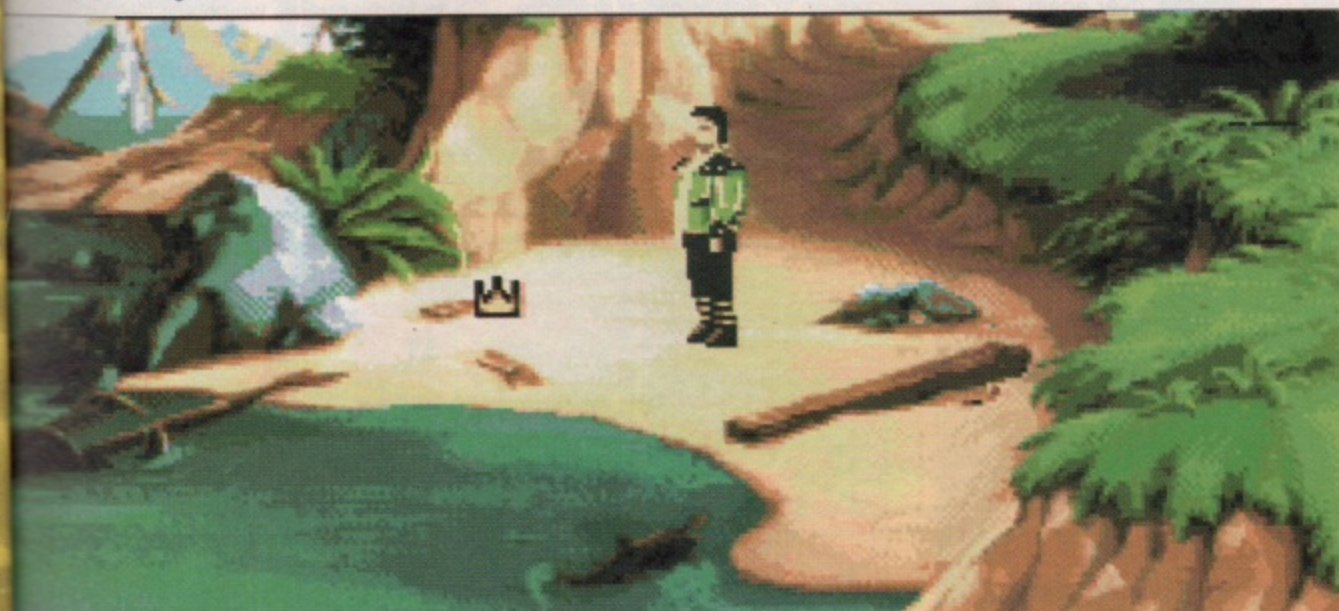
that you pick up, so you can always have one ready in your hand. The icons can be scrolled through by clicking on the right mouse button. To activate an action simply click on the left button. The same can be achieved through a menu bar that's hidden at the top of the screen. There's also a save and load game icon and an inventory chest that shows you what you've picked up.

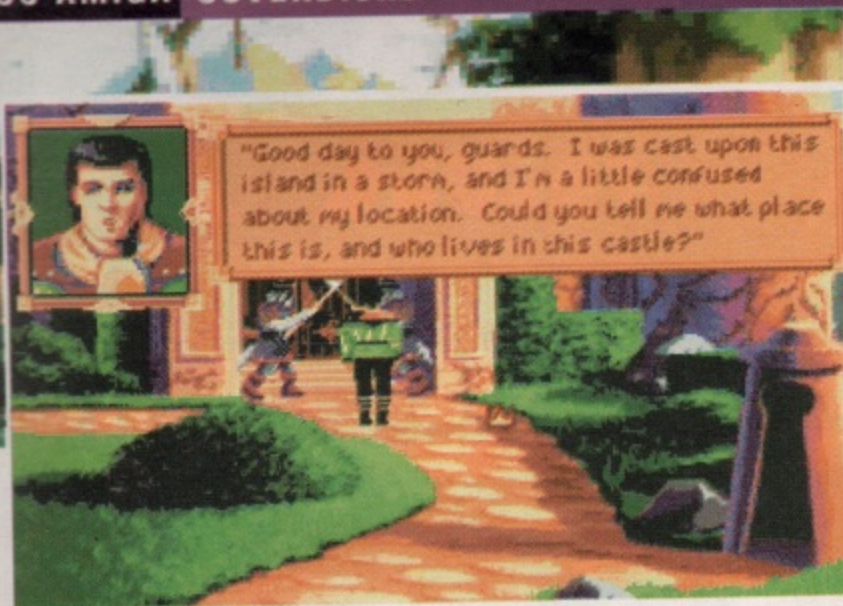
KINGS QUEST VI DEMO SOLUTION

Please note that specific flags have been preset to allow the player to trigger certain sequences that would otherwise not be available.

Occasionally, text will appear referring to events that the player will not have experienced in this demo.

>>





Don't know where you are?
Why not ask the bouncers?

» Prince Alexander regains consciousness on a beautiful sandy beach. The ship-wrecked galleon lies behind the cove in the distance. Stumbling to his feet he gives the surrounding bay his full attention.

Move over towards the left-hand side of the screen and look for a glittering ring in the sand. Pick up the ring. Move over to the right-hand side of the screen and move the wooden plank. Underneath it you'll find a wooden box.

Open the box and remove the coin. Leave the beach and take the right hand path towards the castle. Approach the castle entrance and engage the guard dogs in conversation. Try giving them the coin to let

The menu bar in action.



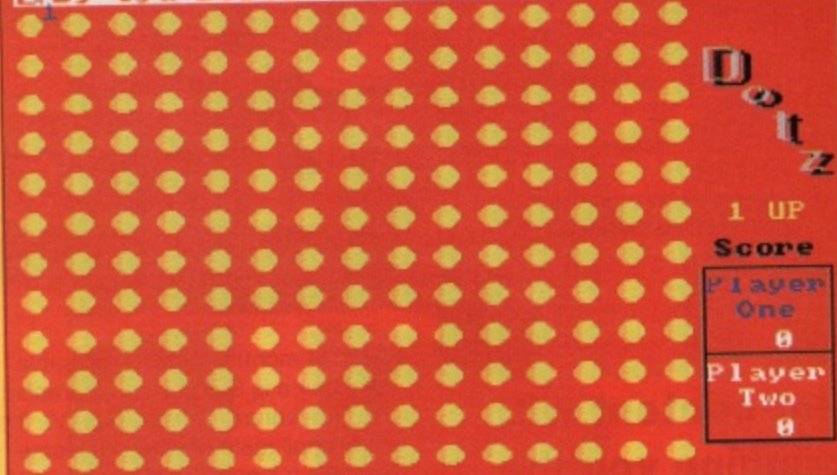
The object of your desire.

you in. Show the guard dogs the ring that you found on the beach. The chief guard dog will come out and escort you in.

Once inside you'll be presented to the Vizier. Talk to him and learn about the fate of Cassima's parents. Learn about the Vizier's plans for the wedding.

Return to the tree and diverging paths screen and you'll see that a bird has appeared. Give the ring to the bird. Pick up the ribbon that the bird brings back from Cassima. Return to the shore where you started the game and wade as far as you can into the water. This ends the demo and, if you wish, you can start this brilliant demonstration all over again. **CU**

By Syd Bolton & Berj Bannayan ©1998



Remember having to draw all of these.

DOTZ

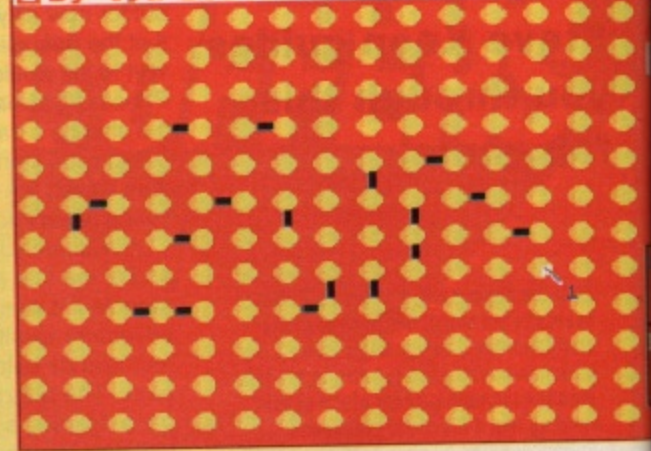
Dotz is one of those games that's been

re-worked countless times over the years, and with every re-working of the formula, so a different name is born. In the past it's been called Squares, Lines, Pavings and we've even heard of a version called Cubicks! But, as soon as you get a glimpse of the screen shots on this page, you'll know that leopards don't change their dotz!

Dotz is a classic classroom game that's been brought back to life with a smashing Amiga version. Although many of us will have played it on graph paper, with a pen or pencil, the computer version is no different. Oh, apart from the fact that you don't have to waste your time scrawling out all those dots on scraps of paper anymore, they're all drawn by your Amiga.

Most adults will be familiar with Dotz and for those of you who've never seen the game before you'll be relieved to know that there's nothing to playing it but hours of fun. The controls are rudimentary to say the least, but then again, if

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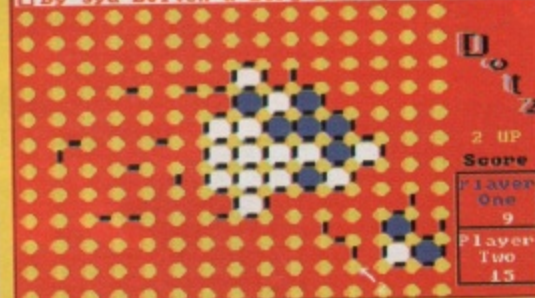


they weren't the game wouldn't have survived in the classroom all these years!

Dotz is set up for two players only. Two friends take it in turns to lay down a single line joining two dots. Just place the mouse cursor between the two yellow dots where you want to position a line and then press the left mouse button. Then pass the mouse over to your opponent for his turn. The ultimate aim is to form squares which are filled in and colour coded according to who completed the last section to form the cube. As long as you form squares you can keep having goes. But there's no point in trying to cheat your way through by taking more turns than you're entitled to – a tiny number 1 or 2 appears above the mouse pointer to keep you up to date with whose turn it is.

The game ends when the grid is completely full and there is no room left to make any more squares. The player with the most squares filled in is declared the winner. Dotz is a simple but fun trip down memory lane. **CU**

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And so it was that during the age of Ragnarok, Heimdall, beloved of the Gods, came to Earth from Valhalla to find the pieces of a Sacred Amulet - the power of which would banish the evil Loki from the viking lands.

It came to pass that Heimdall's quest was revealed in the mighty saga that is....

Heimdall 2



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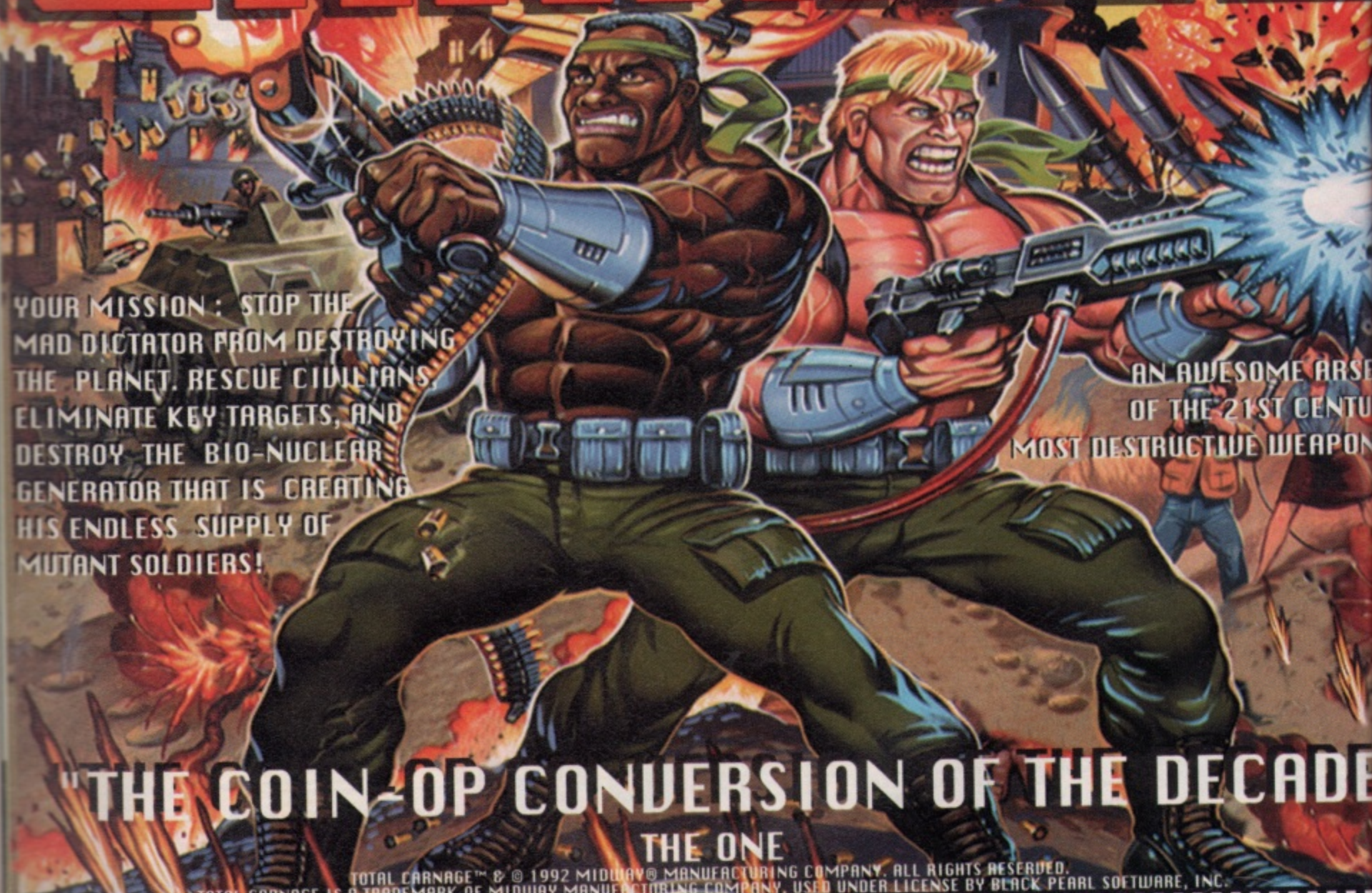
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Setting up shop £

Cashing in on your Amiga skills isn't easy, but with a good idea, lots of enthusiasm and some solid backing it is possible...

Tony Dillon shows you how five companies managed to make it big from small beginnings. Could you do it too?

I can remember a time when small software houses had to bring games to you because there wasn't any room in their kitchen for a press conference. Then along came the big corporations and the console makers, and money flooded into the market. If you didn't have an office and a fax machine, you didn't get in on the deals. There was nowhere for the home coder to go.

Then the PD market exploded and licenceware became the place to be. You only have to look at *Doom* on the PC to see the quality that's available now. In effect, PD became the new cottage industry, but due to its own low pricing, coding for it could never be a full time profession for the hundreds that do so.

But now home coding seems to be making a comeback. The corporates have become too big for their own good, and product quality has slipped in favour of profit. A change was needed, and Team 17 were the people to do it. Against the odds they managed to create a name and a market, simply by thinking of the consumer rather than the bank and opening up the software industry to all and sundry. Now you too can have a number one game!

We decided to talk to some of the other companies who are currently proving that, against the odds, it can be done – asking them how they did it, and what advice they can give you, the potential Archer Macleans and David Brabens of the world. Here is what they said:



At the moment, ASD's reputation lies in the field of game intros. This helicopter intro to *Werewolf KA-50* is a fine example. Rendered on an Amiga 4000, it's the best chopper we've seen this side of Newsnight.



Arcane Entertainment

Arcane Software Developments, AKA ASD, was set up in September 1991. Its sole aim was to develop superior quality software that stands out from the already vast amount of software available in the marketplace today. They also aimed to encompass unique graphics, sound and cunning gameplay, founded on and backed up by superior coding from its in-house programming team.

Stephen Iles, ASD's Managing

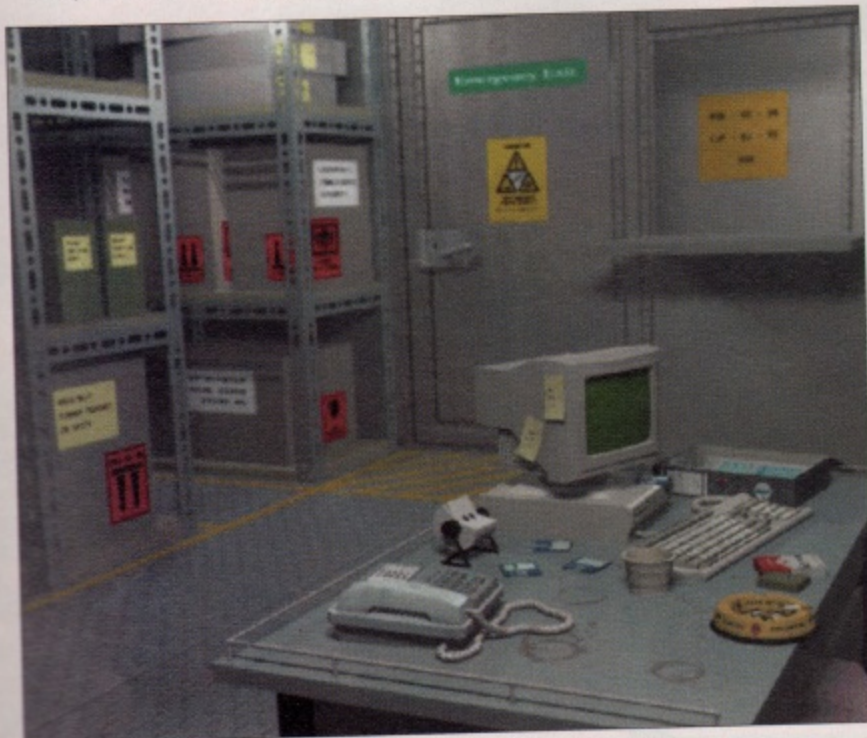
Director and Director of Projects entered the industry in 1988, learning from the raw talent of people like Nick Wilson, Clive Townsend and Simon Francis. Already with seven years of computing experience behind him, he joined the industry with a vast amount of knowledge of what made slick and highly enjoyable computer games that people would want to play. Before setting up Arcane Steve completed an ITEC college course where he studied

business practice and office skills, going on to manage a computer and software retail outlet and achieving record sales using unique marketing strategies. With this experience he then went on to work for the Virgin Group at one of their London Megastores where he headed the information department and general enquiries. Here he gained invaluable insight into the likes and dislikes of the average games player by carrying out numerous public surveys.

Soon, with both the management and retail experience he had gained, it was time for him to start his own development group.

INTRODUCING

ASD's first project was the famous 'Powermonger' intro for Bullfrog/Electronic Arts. This brought them much acclaim, and they were asked to do the *Populous 2* and *Birds Of Prey* intros. The latter was widely described as the best intro to ever

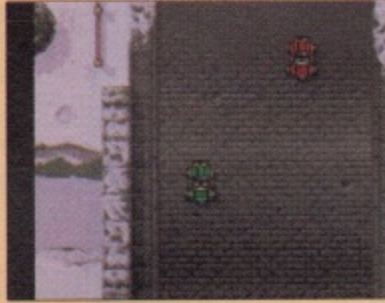


Just two of Arcane's stunning rendered images for Virgin's upcoming *Werewolf* flight sim. By using soft focus, the pictures have a striking sense of depth.

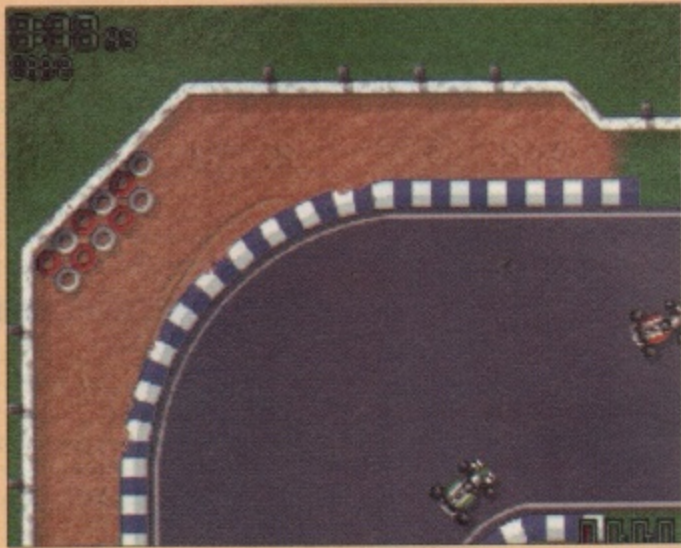
Coming Soon...

TURBO TRAX

A monster of a racing game, *Turbo Trax* is *Super Sprint* on steroids. Race all manner of vehicles around all manner of tracks, in and around cities, forests and even the odd F1 racetrack. The game looks brilliant, but what is most appealing about it is the feel. A lot of time has been spent getting the traction and skidding just right. So far this looks as though it could be a game to rival the feel of *Skidmarks*! More as we get it.



Turbo trax is Arcane's first independent release and if it plays as well as it looks, will be a sure winner.



grace a computer game. They also scripted and produced the intro to *Desert Strike* on the Amiga, but this was not used as the game ended up on too many disks. Their only game released to date is *Rubicon*, but this however was not developed solely by ASD. Currently, they are developing original product for Virgin Interactive Entertainment, including the artwork and intro animation for 'Werewolf KA-50' – a new combat flight simulator – and two of the in-game characters for *Dragon*, the game of the film.

A unique member of the design team is Kevin Williams. Kevin started his career in computer games and co-designed *The Last Ninja* among others. From here he took his skills to both Electrocoin and Capcom where he designed software for arcade machines. Collecting his many talents together he then moved on to Rediffusion where he designed the entertainment software for the virtual reality capsule called *Commander*. All of the game designs are now overseen by Kevin; he also manages to supply Arcane with some of his own.

LIFT-OFF

Arcane have recently announced that they intend to launch themselves as a mainstream publisher. On December 14th Arcane Entertainment was officially born,

with Arcane Software Developments as an additional label. "We felt that with the amount of people now dropping the Amiga platform, and the amount of good-quality designs currently held by us it was the only choice. *Supreme Warriors*, for example, is a product that we spent a great deal of time trying to sell on the Amiga, and although the response was 'Yeah, an amazing design', many of the publishers were not interested in this as a target version. Hence it is currently in development under Arcane's roof. As far as having problems, there were a few setbacks but these were down to dodgy programmers at the end of the day. Apart from that, things seem to have gone very smoothly," says Stephen.

Future plans for Arcane stretch to possible investment in Multimedia and continued to steady expansion, as well as producing 'stunning original games that the public will want to play'.

Details of projects this year include *Turbo Trax* on Amiga 500/1200/CD32 as well as two other titles. Next year will see the release of *Supreme Warriors* and *Esairs XII*, an A1200 shoot em up. With a very strong marketing arm on their side, Daze Marketing, they are now in a position to push the Arcane name and its product to the very maximum of its potential.

One of the prime examples of home grown software publishers has to be New Zealand based Acid Software. Responsible for the fabulous programming package *Blitz Basic 2* and the runaway success that is *Skidmarks*, the team have risen from relative obscurity to media darlings in less time than it takes to boil a Volkswagen.

Composed of Simon Armstrong, Mark Sibly and Andrew Blackbourne, the team recently set up a European base in Camden Town, thanks to the marketing skills of Frenchman Benoit Varasse. Benny tells CU AMIGA how Acid first began. "Acid started 3 years ago in New Zealand with the release of *Blitz Basic II* in Asia and America. Then in September 1993

Acid Software



Acid established its European subsidiary to publish their products. The whole thing started in June. I was finishing an MSc at Kent University when a good friend of mine (Mungo Leir, then at DMI) told me about a totally amazing package called *Blitz Basic*. Simon Armstrong wanted me to translate the *Blitz* manual into French. After DMI collapsed I proposed to Simon to set up its publishing subsidiary in the U.K. and we launched our first product, *Skidmarks*, in December."

BIG MONEY

So who are the people behind this licence to print money? "All the people working at Acid Software have been involved in computer software

The Acid boys in action: from top – Benoit Varasse, European PR and marketing, Simon Armstrong, the big boss and Mark Sibly, star coder.

since the first 8-bit machines. This explains our commitment to playability over anything else. Simon Armstrong, the big boss of Acid has been involved with developments on the Vic-20 and Commodore 64, although his first big achievement was a program called *ColorVision* on the Amiga.

"Mark had, of course, written *Blitz Basic 1* before the sequel and before that had been a programmer for Commodore New Zealand, designing games for the C-16. He also wrote heaps of software for the Apple II/Vic 20/C64 including 34



The rendered vehicles made all the difference to this superb game.

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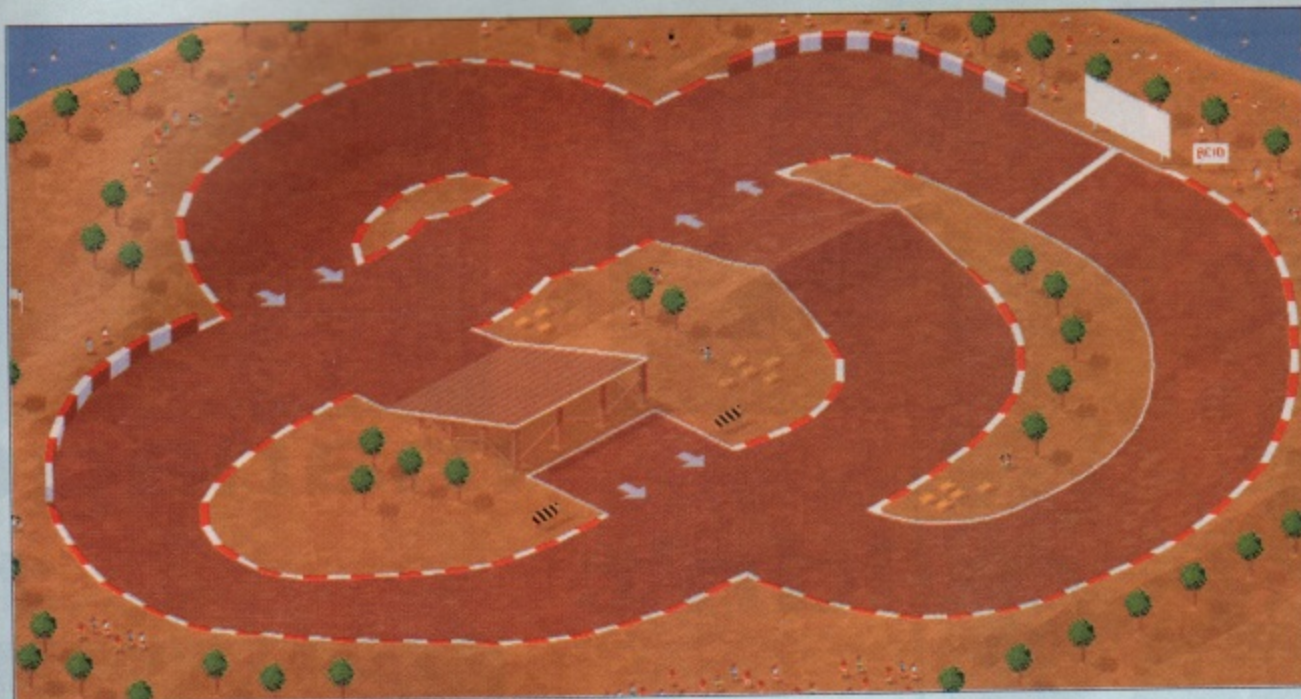
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Skidmarks featured all sorts of tracks. Some had jumps...

BASIC compilers and 135 versions of *Defender* (I'm not quite sure if he can write anything else really...) I wrote a few games for Amstrad machines, published in France. I also wrote *Cool Croc Twins* on Amiga/ST, and started a few lousy ventures before Acid, and did some consulting for different French and English distributors.

"Andrew was an 18 year old student who just happened to also be a Blitz user when he started to write *Skidmarks*."

With that much knowledge of the industry behind them, why decide to set up an independent team?

"To be free!!! Publishing for ourselves means we are able to release exactly what we want, without being driven by any financial consideration other than paying our bills."

I think the main reason is that none of those working with Acid would really fit in with a normal games publisher. We are really too crazy for that (especially Mark). Plus, Simon and Mark always wanted to set up a publishing company in New Zealand.

Since I always wanted to start my own publishing company independently, something different to what's out there, getting together was the best thing that could happen."

EASY?

It can't all have been as smooth as that though, can it? There must have been some problems.

"Heaps of problems, man. I started by selling *Blitz* from my student bedroom in Canterbury. We sold 15 the first month! The problem was to turn this microscopic venture into a real company in less than 3 months. And Acid Software New Zealand was really very short of cash at that time, since DMI went bust and *Woody's World* that Simon was handling for Vision was badly released."

Also, as neither Simon or myself

could afford a plane ticket, we never met each other before February and we set up the entire deal by fax – which caused a few communication problems. Anyway, I ended up borrowing £2,000 from my lovely sister and went to London to rent a flat and set up a kind of office in it" continues Benoit.

"Then the real problems started: first of all it was very hard to open a bank account for this company (a French guy setting up ACID software with a bunch of Kiwis!!!). Then nobody wanted to let us produce our goods on credit, basically nobody trusted us."

Luckily, we came across a few good companies like The Software Business and especially CDS Software from Doncaster which realised our potential and helped us at the right time. They don't regret it now that *Skid* is on top of charts and *Blitz* is recognised as the best development tool for the Amiga.

"Amiga users have understood that we are working for them (which is why we don't release any rubbish Hollywood licences with no gameplay) and everything seems a lot easier. But setting up the whole thing, going from zero to the top, that was really a blast, I would have done it just for the good time."

WHERE TO NOW?

But where do Acid go now? Benoit replies: "Well, the most important plans at the moment would be some holidays. Mark and Simon are, at the moment, in Disneyland, but I am thinking about a more relaxed destination, Jamaica maybe... then it will be time to release the CD32

enhanced version of *Skidmarks*, together with new track discs for floppy users."

"Then we'll have Mark's new game, *Guardian*. (The Amiga equivalent of the Nintendo game *Starwing*). We really feel very strong about this game, I really think you will all be blown away."

"We decided to do the CD32 first so that we can really take advantage of the machine (especially the seven-button joystick, perfect for playability) and give the CD32 the software support it deserves. So CD32 users don't worry, *Guardian* is coming and it is the best thing that could happen for your machine."

"Apart from that we have a few other plans for the next Xmas season that I don't want to unveil now. We also expect a lot from our UK *Blitz* users. There are thousands of them out there, we have brought them the best development package there is, I am sure something good is going to come from them. We are obviously interested in publishing any *Blitz* software that meets our quality and gameplay standards. So UK users, keep on hacking, if an 18 year old kid can write *Skidmarks* in *Blitz*, you can



...and some didn't. All were great fun to play though.

do something cool too.

Finally, the success of *Skidmarks* means we have quite a bit of cash to play with. We are interested in meeting top (but really top, mind...) programmers, games designers, artists, musicians etc... that would like to work on some of our projects or need sponsorship for their own projects.

We are obviously looking at new 64-bit platforms although we are, and will remain, an Amiga software publisher first. The only condition for being part of Acid Software is to be really interested in video-games themselves (and not the money they generate, like 95% of the people I've met in the industry), to commit to playability and be a cool bloke who likes to party a lot!"

"As for the money, we make sure at Acid that everybody gets a fair share and is happy. Maybe in a couple of years, we'll be able to offer Sensible a deal, those guys are really hot, we respect them. I just hope they like to party too!"

And finally, if we get successful enough, we would like to get involved in politics and try to change the way people think a bit, maybe help the world be a bit less competitive." Benoit concludes.

You could almost believe them too. Acid Software have come from nowhere to the top in no time at all. At time of going to press, *Skidmarks* has sold over 15,000 copies! Not bad at all for the guys who just want to party!

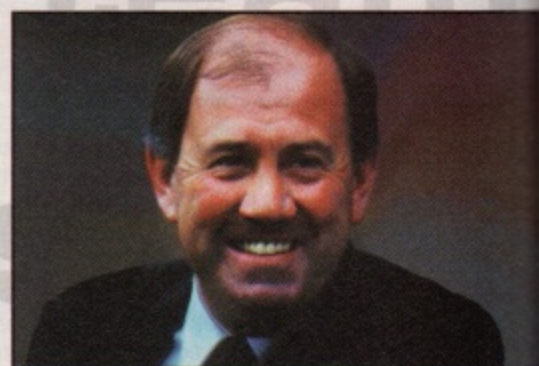
Coming Soon...

GUARDIAN

Originally titled *Sibwing*, *Guardian* is Mark Sibly's interpretation of the SNES game *Starwing*, and it plays even better than it looks. AGA only at this stage, the game features more colours and sounds than any contemporary, and features the player as an intergalactic star jockey performing missions for a military organisation. More than that is impossible to tell you at present, as the game changes so much from week to week. We'll have more info as soon as we get it.



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A freeze frame of the destruction available to you as a Zeewolf pilot. And these are the small missiles.

Binary Asylum

Binary Asylum quietly stepped onto the scene a year ago, coming from a mainly journalistic background, and have remained quiet until now, with previews and features on the soon-to-be huge seller Zeewolf appearing all over the news stands. PR man Andy Smith tells the tale, exactly how it is: "Binary Asylum was officially formed on March 1st 1993, although it had been in the planning stage for some years prior to that. Myself, Bob Wade and Andy Wilton (Binary Asylum's main team) met when we were all working on Future Publishing's ACE magazine (later owned by EMAP Images), and because we were all totally into the games scene the pub next door to Future's offices saw many a heated (and usually drunken) argument about the pros and cons of the latest batch of software.

"This was back in '88, when the

first decent games were starting to appear on the Amiga and ST, and the computer games industry was starting to enjoy a bit of a comeback thanks to these more powerful machines. But all three of us were slightly disheartened because it was still rare to find a game that was actually any good and so we all thought then that what we'd really like to do is quit this magazine lark and actually produce some games that we would enjoy playing ourselves.

CAPITAL RADIO

"Unfortunately, we didn't have the kind of capital needed to start a software house at that time but towards the end of '92 the capital was there. Bob and myself left Future in early '93 and switched from reviewing games to producing them - mainly because Andy Wilton had by then been working on a 3D Amiga game



for about a year, which was good enough to convince us that we could actually make a go of *Binary Asylum*."

With their undisputed inside information, wouldn't it have been easier to go with a major company at that point? Why go it alone?

Andy replies: "Two main reasons really: money and control. When we first decided to form Binary Asylum and before we'd actually looked too closely at the costs involved in publishing a game, we rather thought that we would indeed have to sign with an established major software house and limit ourselves to being a development house. At the time that didn't sound like too bad an option – we'd develop what we thought were good games and would then let someone with more publishing experience publish the games on our behalf.

"There's nothing wrong with that route, but it does mean you're actually giving a lot of the game's profit to the software house, sure, they're taking the risk in publishing your game and they're doing all the donkey work involved in actually getting your game onto the shelves at Smiths or Boots, but if you believe your game's good and you believe that people still want to buy good games and you can afford to take the risk yourself then why not? It means, of course, that we have to spend a lot of money hiring the people we need to handle bringing the game to market, because none of us have any experience in that field – but having said that, once we've gained the experi-



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ence we'll be able to do that much more and have that much more control over those aspects with our next game.

IN CONTROL

"There's also the question of being fully in control of our own destiny – if we want to publish a game in the middle of July, when other software houses would rather hold it until Christmas, then we can go ahead and publish in July. If we want to market the game in a certain way and not fol-

low 'traditional' paths then we can do that too. Being independent means that we make all the decisions and have no-one to answer to. Of course this means that if some of our decisions are wrong then we have to carry the can for them, but hopefully we'll learn from them and will be able to use our experience when we publish future games."

An idyllic situation to be in. Can it all have been so easy?

"Problems? – Very few so far. Because we'd all worked in the industry and because this was something we actually spent a lot of time thinking about, we were aware of all the pitfalls and problems that were likely to arise beforehand, and so they've been easy to deal with. Nothing ever runs as smoothly as you'd like them to, of course, but at least if you're aware of what problems you might face and can devise contingency plans before they occur then you're going to be much better prepared should things go all pear shaped.

Advice?

"Believe in what you're doing but be realistic. Don't try to do everything if it's simply beyond your capabilities (financial or otherwise) and remember

that everything takes twice as long as you originally thought it would!"

And after Zeewolf?

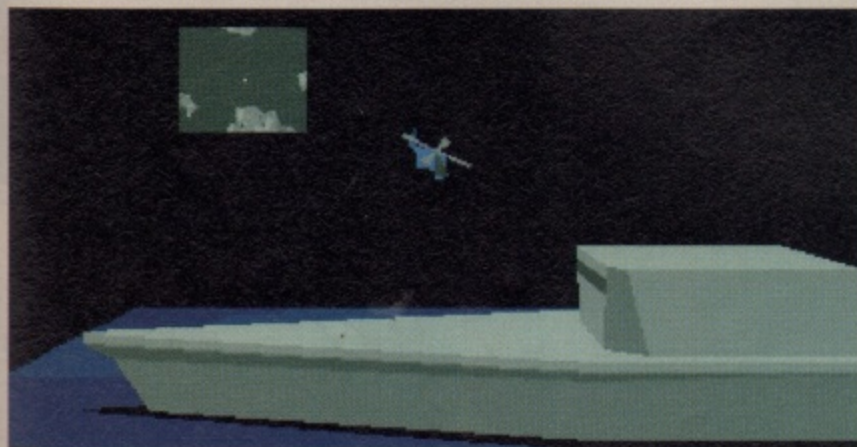
"Once Zeewolf has been published we'll be straight into our next project – Binary Asylum intend to release three or four quality products a year and we aim to expand very slowly. We don't ever want to get to the point where we're simply pumping out games (or products as they'd become) simply for the hell of it, or to make a fast buck. We only want to publish games that we would go out and buy and enjoy playing ourselves. Then we all want to retire and run a beach cocktail bar in the Bahamas!"

Coming Soon... ZEEWOLF

If this game reminds us of anything, it has to be David Braben's wonderful 3D epic *Virus* (formerly *Zarch*). Like *Desert Strike* viewed from the side, the game has you doing all the things that active helicopter pilots do (rescue people destroy buildings etc) while doing all the other things that helicopter pilots do (stay in the air, for example). It's fast, it's colour, and it's pretty damn exciting looking. More soon.



A quick tug on the rope and the tank is left hanging.



Just two shots from this fast and active game. You might have noticed the resemblance to David Braben's *Virus* but this is much easier to play.

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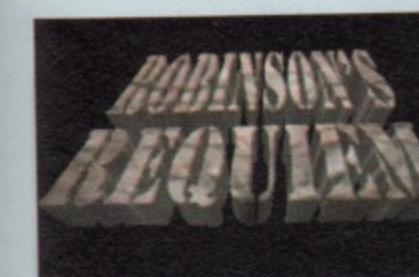
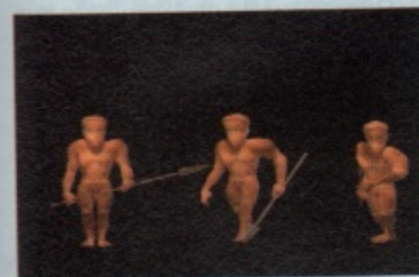
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Daze Marketing



No, don't run off screaming. These aren't the Krays, they're the boys from Daze.



Robinson's Requiem is the first 3D survival simulation and these are just some of the dangers you'll need to face.

Not all software developers need to publish the games themselves. One offshoot of the resurgence in the cottage industry has been marketing and sales teams such as The Software Business and Black Legend, who take on the work of independent developers and handle all the distribution, without the high loss of profit generally connected with majors. Daze Marketing are one of the more recent and more successful of these teams, and Richard Hennerley tells all. "Daze Marketing was launched in January 1992. I had two main reasons for setting up the company; firstly I had a personal desire to be my own boss and secondly I had, in my time in the business, identified a distinct opportunity in the market. I recognised that there was no company in the computer games industry that dealt exclusively in representing (in terms of sales, marketing and PR) the interests of overseas publishers, in the UK and territories outside their home country. It was clear that there was a great deal of talent on the continent, producing excellent games and needing the opportunity to get them across the whole of Europe. That's the opportunity that Daze Marketing offers them."

CONCEPTION

"When Daze was conceived there were other companies handling overseas developers' games but only as an adjunct to their existing publishing business. Products from represented labels got a second best service and were considered less important than those being developed in-house. Often they were simply exploited as sources of quick cashflow between releases."

"So Daze stepped in to offer a full service to foreign labels seeking a base in the UK and pan-European distribution. We concentrate solely on their needs, with no involvement whatsoever in development or other forms of publishing. The formula has proved to be an outstanding success. Over the last 2 years we have proved ourselves to be the best agency in the UK for establishing Europe-wide sales and a solid brand identity for independent labels."

So who are the wacky, short haired crew that make up Daze Marketing? Managing Director Richard Hennerley has been in the business for about seven years and has worked under the banner of both Prism Leisure and Palace Software before going it alone with Daze. PR



Robinson has been dumped on an island with no food or means of escape.

and Marketing Manager Cliff Guy spent an equal number of years as a publicist in the book and magazine publishing industry before stepping into games publishing. The team is supported by Louise Alexander, who takes care of the accounts (in between pursuing a career as a portrait artist) and new recruit Dowan Ramanan who take on a dedicated customer support line providing one more valuable service to their clients.

FOLLOW MY LEADER

Anyone considering following the same road as Richard would obviously want to know what to look out for along problem street, and Hennerley is happy to oblige. "The ideas I had

for Daze's method of operation would not have worked within a traditional publishing environment. To make the ideas work I had to branch out on my own and I wanted the independence that this would bring me. As far as problems go, there were only three. Cash, cash and cash. I was very lucky as I was backed by some kind people within the industry. If I had had to go to the banks for finance, it would have been a very different story."

Daze has a very busy few months ahead, with the release of Ishar 3 from Silmarils in May, and their ground breaking survival simulation Robinson's Requiem. They release Ascon's new footy management game On The Ball in May too along with Bloodhouse's Superstardust for CD32 and A1200 in May and June respectively.

Closing words? "We aim to continue to offer excellent representation for our existing clients as well as exploring marketing opportunities for potential new clients. Our aims are long term - to build up a successful, high-profile for our clients and their titles."



A sneak look at Ishar 3.

Bloodhouse



One of the fantastic funnel sequences in *Super Stardust*.

Bloodhouse are a very new label, having only released a single game so far. Based in Finland, the boys are men of few words, happier to let their games speak for themselves. I sent them a short list of questions, and they returned a short list of answers and a long list of games currently in development. Here's the lowdown as I received it:

Q: How and when did the company begin?

A: We noticed that there aren't any software publishers here in Finland. However despite that, we have a lot of talented programmers, graphic artists etc in our country, but there weren't any software houses.

So, we decided to change that, and Bloodhouse Ltd was born.

Q: What is the history of the team members?

A: Most of our members have a demo scene background. Some are just everyday video game fanatics.

Q: Why did you decide to go independent rather than work for an established company?

A: This way we can do whatever we want.

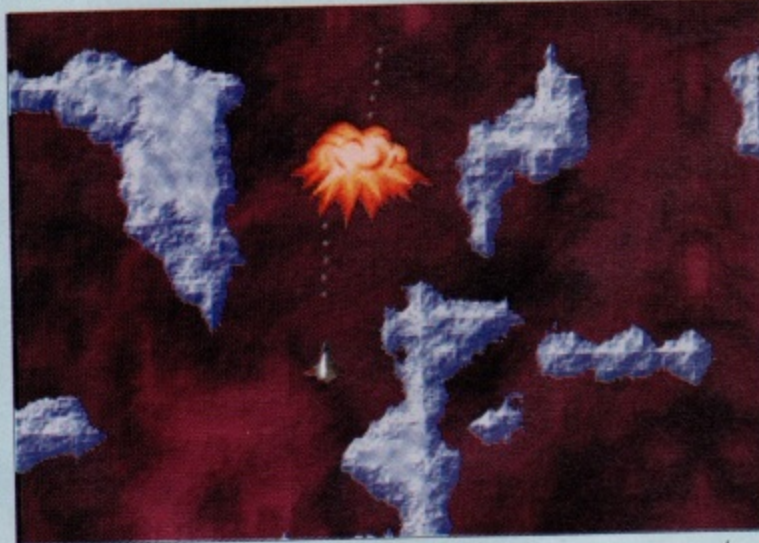
Q: What problems have you had up unto now?

A: The hardest thing that springs to mind was getting a financier.

Q: What are the plans and aims of the company?

A: We will start to support Amiga and CD32 actively, but we'll start developing games for consoles as well. Bloodhouse operates from Finland. This is a little problem, because our main markets are in UK and Europe, so we would like to establish a UK office in the future.

Short but sweet, you will agree, but to the point. Patteri Putkonen then went on to detail all the upcoming Bloodhouse products, which you'll find in the box at the bottom of this lovely page.



Looking over the world in Utopos. Control an army, the world, the system, the galaxy and then the Universe.



A shoot from *Benjamin And The Alien Incident*.

Coming Soon...

SUPERSTARDUST

The AGA enhanced version of the superb *Asteroids* variant, the game now features 256 colours on screen at once, 48 colour tunnel sections, parallax scrolling, more sound effects and a two player mode. The CD32 version is even more enhanced, with 16-bit sound and extra levels! What more could you want?

UTOPOS

Utopos is a game that combines strategy and arcade elements. Your objective is to take over the world, first by stepping into battle yourself, and then going on to control armies who will fight on your behalf. Once you have the world under your belt, you can move on to take planets and then galaxies! The arcade segment of the game

features real time calculated fractal backgrounds and a 50Hz screen update. And of course it features the high level of playability and stunning visuals that Bloodhouse are quickly building a reputation for.

AGGRESSION

An AGA only horizontally scrolling shoot em up, it features 95% ray traced graphics and up to 512 colours on screen at once. Full screen multilayer scrolling and huge sprites make use of every clock cycle on an A1200. The CD32 version will feature bigger animations and the music is played directly from the CD, making room for even better sound effects. More as we have it.

On top of that, Bloodhouse have plans for a new kind of graphic adventure 'Benjamin And The Alien Incident' and the mother of all shoot em ups 'Alien Wars'. Look out for all of these on a page near you.

To Conclude

Things will never be as easy as they were in the good/bad old days. There is still a highly competitive market out there, and although you can get success, you've still got it all against you. If you think you've got what it takes, then here's a list of the things you will need to watch out for.

1. **Money.** Even if you're coding at home, you're still going to need to pay the rent, and just sitting down and typing doesn't fill your wallet. If you can get someone to invest, great. If not, you'll going to have to work around a 'proper' job until you've got enough to go alone.

2. **Originality.** No-one is going to buy a copy of a successful game. If you've got another *Alien Breed*, then bin it and start again, or make it different enough to count.

3. **Planning.** When approaching a distribution house such as Daze or Black Legend, a good storyboard and game design is far more important than a demo disk with some flashy scrolling. It shows you can be organised and in control enough for them to take a risk with you.

4. **Dedication.** It takes time, and you will receive your fair share of knock backs. Skidmarks was turned down by some major distributors before *Acid* got it out.

5. **Your own abilities.** What are you actually capable of doing. If you can get a game together, but have no idea what to do with it then, then you are going to have to get hold of someone to market it for you. If you feel confident enough to do it all yourself, then good luck, but the buck stops with you.

6. **You don't have to do it all on your own.** If you have what it takes, but don't actually want to start up a team, you can just as easily join another, or look for freelance work. Again, it all comes down to your own capabilities. Game designers are thin on the ground, and you could be just what the doctor ordered.

What more can we say? Good luck!

SOME USEFUL CONTACTS

Four of the five companies mentioned are actually development teams, whereas Daze Marketing is distribution and marketing agent. If you need the services of such an organisation for your dream product then the following phone numbers might help:

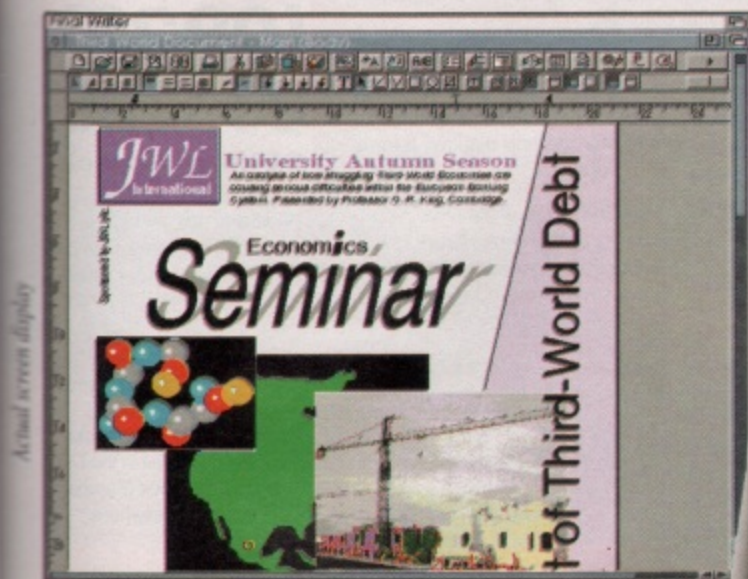
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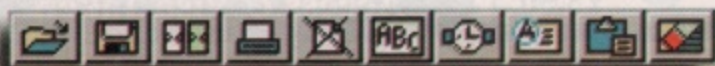
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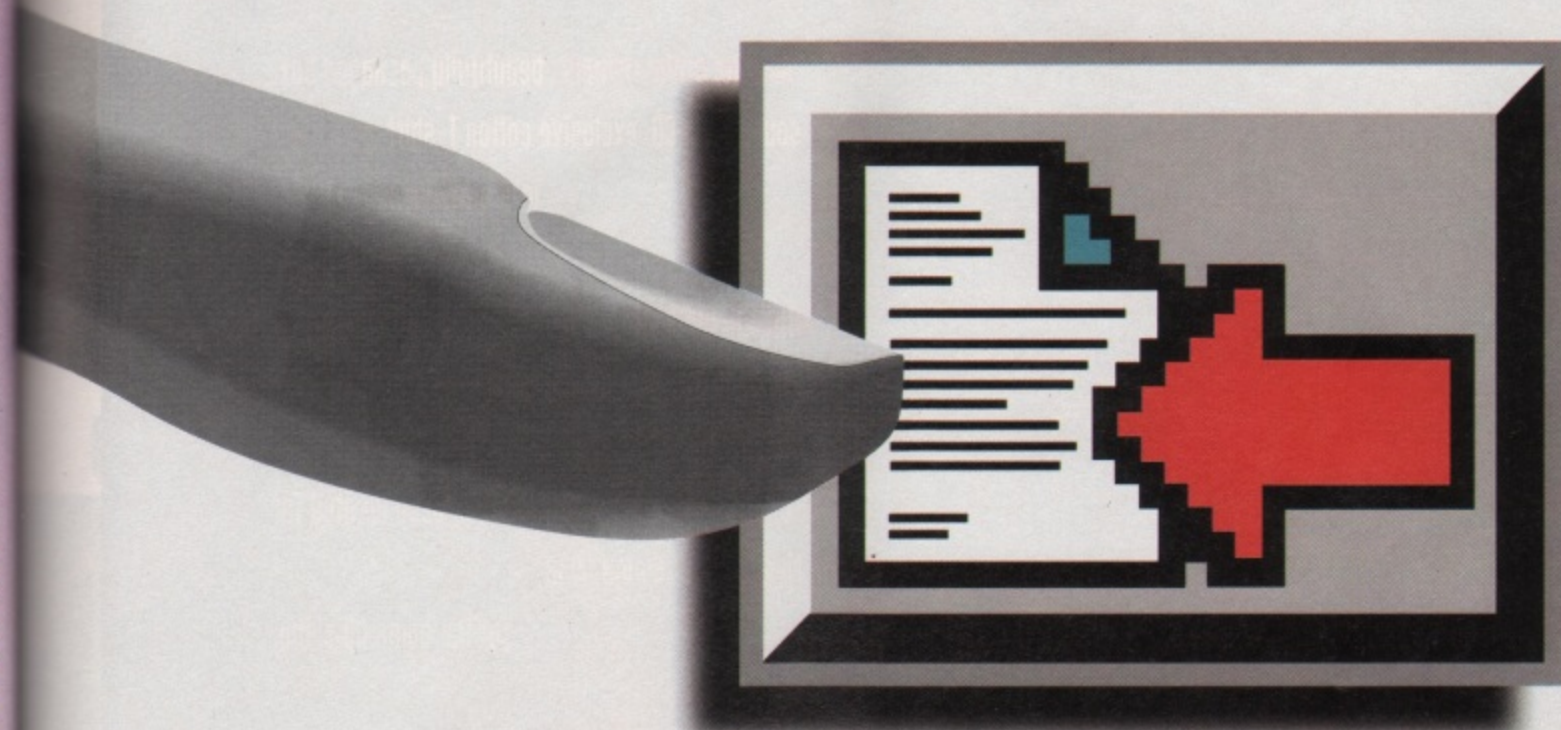
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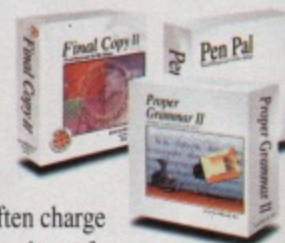
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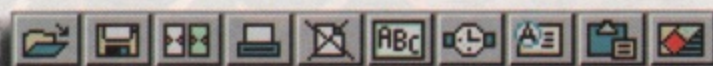
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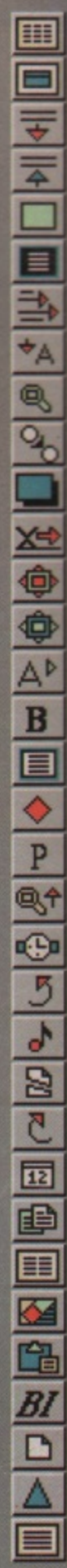
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DIARY OF A GAME

Mindscape have recently signed the rights to a brand new, CD only, isometric puzzle game. If you thought that filling a CD was easy, then read on...



The advent of CD in the computer games industry has meant the production of larger and larger games. Most people seem happy for now with sticking on an A1200 version of a game with some digital audio to pad out the space. Some, however, want to use all that extra storage space to create huge games. Developing a game that takes up close to 600Mb is no easy task however, and many just can't see how it could be done at all. Hence this brand new section, where we chart the trials and tribulations of two ordinary blokes who want to teach the world – a bit like Esther's *Hearts Of Gold*! Over the next few months we'll take you all the way, from initial development to the final mastering of *Space Academy*, courtesy of SGA.

"Firstly, let me introduce you to the Stellar Genesis Agency. In charge of programming is I, John Jones-Steele. I have been in the industry since it



The Stellar Genesis Agency are a happy pair. John Jones-Steele (main pic) does the coding while Dave Rowe (inset) handles all the graphics and the chunky jumpers.

started, for full details see the March issue of CU AMIGA (on the *Sim City 2000* preview). The creative mind behind the Agency is David Rowe. David's background is varied, from book design and layout through strip cartoons and game cover design to contributing to the development and production of the highly successful TV series *Knightmare* (See box for more details). Dave has been producing ideas and artwork on the Amiga 500 for some time, but felt that 32 colours and floppy disks were just too limiting to consider producing a game within those constraints.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

"Enter the CD32 and AGA machines. Dave and I got together and decided that, at last, a machine was available that we could get excited about developing original games for. We needed both the 256 colours and the storage space to produce games that we ourselves would like to play. The Stellar Genesis Agency was open for business. The first problem to overcome was a communication problem. I live by the coast in Aberystwyth and Dave lives in the wilds of the Welsh mountains near Llanddewi Brefi. This is a perfect example of telecommuting. With modems and fax machines,

distance is not such an obstacle. Dave can fax sketches and diagrams to me and send finished graphics by modem direct to my hard drive.

"In June of last year, we started throwing around ideas and developing themes, while continuing with the contracts we already had with various publishers. We made a decision very early on, that we wanted to use the whole CD for gameplay and relevant graphics, not to fill it up with tracks of music for padding. This obviously means more work at the outset, but we feel that CD32 buyers will appreciate games that don't look like they could have been released on floppy.

"We finally came up with an idea that we both got fired up about and put together an outline proposal to show to publishers. This is where our contact with big business began. No matter how keen a producer is, the product has to go through weeks of evaluation by production teams, marketing departments, even legal departments, before acceptance to go ahead can be given. Finally, in February this year we were given

WHO'S THE OTHER GUY?

Regular readers of CU AMIGA will need no introduction to John Jones-Steele. For those who don't know who he is, here's a quick summary: John lives in Wales and has coded every single game there is for every machine ever devised, and recently won an award for converting *Alfred Chicken* to run on ERNIE, the pools computer. The guy in partnership with him, however, is David Rowe, who might need a little introduction. Dave obtained a BA(Hons) degree in visual communication from Brighton Polytechnic, faculty of Art and Design, and went on to Southampton College Of Art to lecture in life drawing whilst establishing a career in illustration. In 1984 he gave up lecturing to pursue freelance illustration full time.

His earliest clients include Quicksilver, Melbourne House, Interface Publications, Telecomsoft, Argus Press Software, Argus Books, Mirrorsoft and Activision/Electric Dreams. Since then he has produced cover artwork for; *Populous*, *Populous 2*, *Aquatic Games*, *Risky Woods* and *Ferrari Formula One* among others for EA, *Shadow Of The Beast 3* and *Bill's Tomato Game*. He has also worked on characterisations for *Psygnosis* (*Lemmings 2*) and *Millennium* (*James Pond 2* among others). Clients who have been taking game graphics from him include Virgin Games, Domark, Core Design, Microprose, USD, Imagineer, Starbyte and Neo Software Produktions.

In publishing, he has created magazine covers for EMAP, Europress and Future Publishing, plus paperback covers for Transworld/Corgi, Simon & Schuster and Harper Collins. Not only that lot, but he's also done loads in the TV industry, including dungeon interiors for *Knightmare*, which was initially Anglia TV, and then Broadsword Television Productions, who then used him to produce illustrations for *The Satellite Game*, *Timebusters* and *Cyberzone*.

Both men are extremely busy all the time, so you can count your blessings that they've decided to take the time out to do this for you lot!

the go ahead by Mindscape to start work on our baby, *Space Academy*.

BABYSTEPS

"The first thing we have to do is produce a complete design from our rough outline. We need to produce a full script of the game detailing what will happen to the character at all locations in the game. This is a huge task. If any of you out there are thinking that you can

longer nights, putting the mechanics of our game together. It was at this stage we realised that to keep our ideas logical and linked, we would have to build models of all the locations in the game, which is the point we are at now, nailing pieces of balsa wood together to create some semblance of a game."

Next month we will detail the struggle of getting to the first milestone – the completed game design. **CU**

dash off a game on the back of an envelope, forget it. Now is the time for long days, and even



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FURY OF THE FURRIES

MINDSCAPE OUT NOW £29.99



Oh no! It's back. And I still can't

pronounce the name without seeming to say something stupid. The Tinies have gone optical as Mindscape brings their latest and greatest offering to the CD32, and it's a more or less direct port from the original floppy version. To refresh your memories, the Tinies are a small band of woolly balls with legs who like nothing more than to wreak havoc whenever possible. They've been away from their home planet for quite a while now, and have returned to find that all is not well. The King has been kidnapped, and someone has used a transforming machine to turn all the other pesky little blighters into normal, respectable hairy creatures. How horrid.

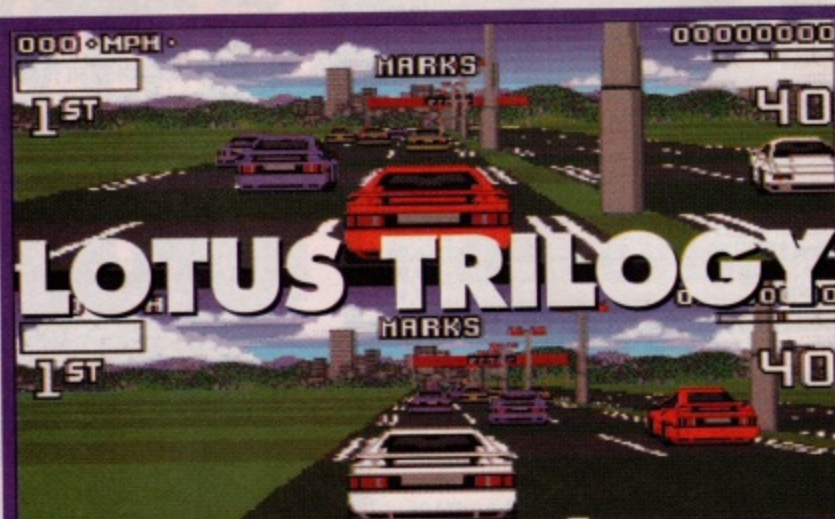
The game works as a cross between a platform game and a puzzler. Your Tiny has four different 'modes' he can operate in, and has to use a combination of them to get around each screen. A yellow Tiny can shoot fireballs, a red one can

bite through rocks, a blue one can swim underwater and a green one is particularly adept at doing Spiderman impersonations. Between them they have to take on everything you can think of, from spikes to crabs to fish to... well anything really.

The first time I played this game, I must admit I found it far too slow to be playable. A couple of goes later, and I was hooked by the charismatic little chaps, who may not be the fastest things on two legs, but sure are the cutest. Fury is chock full of those 'little touches' we reviewers so love to see, which just add more to what is already a great game. This one won't leave your machine for quite a while.

Tony Dillon

83%



GREMLIN OUT MARCH £29.99

Correct me if I'm wrong, but the point of releasing a sequel to a game is usually to make it better than the previous one. So why on earth would anyone want to buy three copies of what is essentially the same game, revised twice?

Back in the early nineties computer freaks raved about the speed and instant playability of Gremlin's superlative racing sim. It set new standards in pole position racing gameology. Nothing could match the original for speed, instant playability, competitiveness and sheer fun. The only thing missing was a two player option, so that you and a friend could burn rubber in head-to-head competition.

That was soon sorted out with the legendary release of *Lotus 2*, which did everything its predecessor did, but better. *Lotus 2* introduced different tracks, weather conditions, more detailed courses, with underpasses and night time racing, plus the split screen two-player challenge.

Gremlin thought they had the super-fast, background scrolling, racing genre market sewn up, but other companies were quick to pounce on the idea. A whole spate of copy-cat racing games came out, including the *Crazy Cars* series and the more technically advanced polygon based racing sims. Then Core released Jaguar XJ 220 which achieved the seemingly impossible and conquered *Lotus 2s* until then apparently unsailable position.

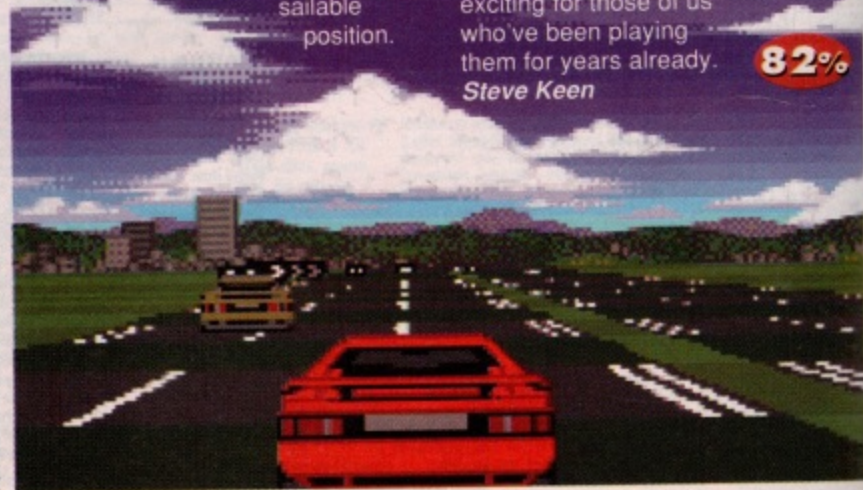
Whilst Core took the money and ran, Gremlin came back with what they hoped would be the definitive version of the Lotus trilogy, *Lotus 3*.

The final game contained all the essential elements of its award winning predecessors but included a fistful of new features. Weather hit the tracks in sporadic gaps, with the sun shining one minute and rain pouring down the next. Torrents of water threw up all kinds of water hazards and puddles. But the most significant addition was the track editor. After you had raced your way around the computer designed courses you could actually sit down and create your own. The system was incredibly easy to use and you could literally design a track, complete with trees, hordings, tunnels and road hazards and be racing on it within minutes!

None of these games, barring *Lotus 2*, were great advancements in gaming technology and the gimmicks were beginning to take over in *Lotus 3* (the CD is now the ultimate gimmick). Yes, they are all milestones in racing history, but, to be honest, you only really need one of them, not all three. As for the CD version itself, the graphics have been made slightly smoother thanks to faster disk access, the music's been cranked up a notch and the sound effects have all been re-sampled for more realism. There's, also none of that annoying, dodgy manual protection to wade through. A welcome addition to the CD32 catalogue, but not too exciting for those of us who've been playing them for years already.

Steve Keen

82%





SEEK AND DESTROY

MINDSCAPE OUT NOW £29.99

Praise be to Mindscape, for verily they do support the cause of the CD32 well. Yet another A1200 port here, but that's all right because it's a great game. In case you hadn't read the review a couple of issues ago, Vision Software's neat little shoot 'em up takes the *Desert Strike* approach to helicopter combat and stands it on its head. You fly a lone Apache chopper (as usual), over desert and sea (as before) and there's an entire army waiting to take you on when you get there (surprise surprise).

So what's new about it? The full screen rotation, really. Take *Bob's Bad Day*, and use the screen shifting routine, apply it to the whole screen, including the backdrop, and you've got *Seek And Destroy*. Though very disorientating at first, watching the whole world bend to your will is quite a pleasant way to spend an afternoon.

Not that you spend all that much time watching the world spin. You're far too busy taking out the millions of targets that make up each objective,

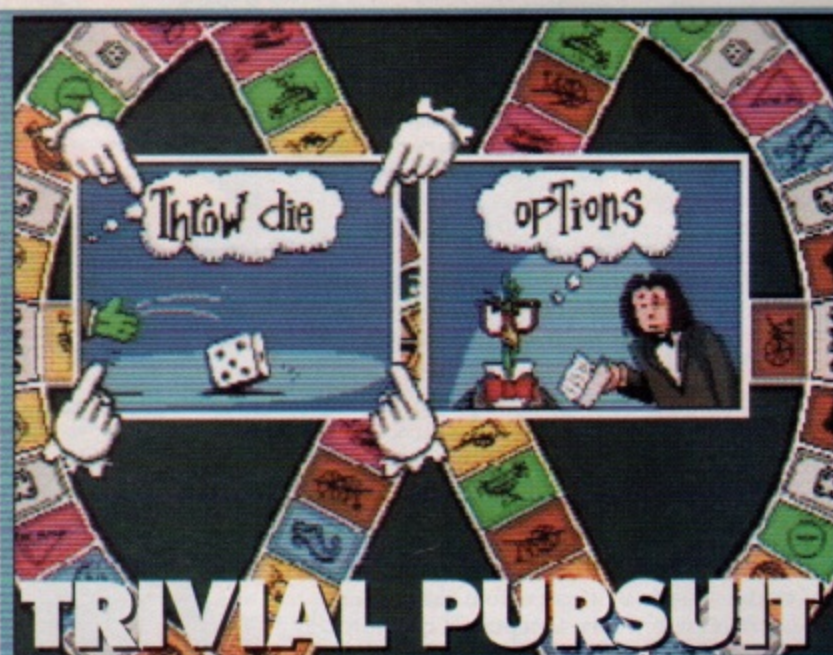


while trying to avoid being blown out of the sky by the dozens of bullets and guided missiles shooting around at any one time. Naturally you have more than enough in the weaponry department to return fire, but you're still going to have one hell of a time keeping the bird in the air long enough to complete a mission.

I couldn't help but feel a little disappointed by the conversion though. The only real improvement is some new music, which is far from stunning and the loading times which have been decreased slightly. It's a great game, but I can't help wishing they had done a little more with it in the conversion process.

Tony Dillon

82%



DOMARK OUT NOW £29.99

Ask anyone what the most important release for the ill-fated CDTV was, and they'll answer 'Trivial Pursuit'. Domark made a killing many moons ago when the 8-bit versions appeared, and the advent of CD seemed the perfect medium for a trivia based game. Pulling influence from everywhere, from pub trivia machines to every game show under the sun, it worked brilliantly, providing an unrivalled multimedia experience. And now it comes to the CD32.

Don't get over excited, though. This is basically the same game as the CDTV version, with a couple of bugs fixed. Getting technical for a moment, the differing sizes in the loading buffers and some of the sound files wouldn't run properly on the CD32, so a couple of quick fixes later and, hey presto, the CD32 version is born.

So what do you get for your money? 2,000 questions, as the box so proudly shows. 2,000 ques-

tions covering every topic under the sun, and all accompanied by full colour, generally highly misleading photographs. "Which part of the human face typically has around 550 hairs?", asks the game, showing you a picture of a man with a huge beard. Apparently there are considerably less pictures on the disk than there are questions, so it just chooses the one it finds most relevant.

The whole thing is held together by a talking cartoon bird, who introduces each question and a selection of famous personalities from history – such as Shakespeare and Einstein – who ask them. The script is almost funny in places, but due to the limiting nature of the game, you do find yourself watching the same bit of animation and listening to the same joke time and time again.

If you like *Trivial Pursuit*, of course you're going to like this. By the way, an eyebrow has 550 hairs. See what I mean about being misleading?

Tony Dillon

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SCREEN SCENE

Oil your joysticks, get your trigger finger ready and prepare to be knocked into the middle of next month with the fastest and most vibrant review section on the planet. Or settle down for a good read.

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A CU Screen Star is for games scoring 85%-92%. If a game gets one of these, it'll be of lasting quality and you can rest assured that, if you decide to purchase it, you won't be wasting your money.



93% and a game's worth a Superstar. We hardly throw them around, but if a game gets one it'll be completely outstanding.



Fancy a bit of fore-sight? This is the place to be. You couldn't see any further forward if you stood on Mount Everest with a pair of binoculars!

WORLD CUP USA 94

US GOLD

THE GAMEPLAY: It's an arcade football game. What did you think it was going to be? Of course, this one stands out from the current crop of football games in that it is the only one officially endorsed by the World Cup association. A top view game, in the mould of so many before it (*Kick Off*, *Sensible Soccer*), you can play any of the teams from the World Cup line up, plus all the other options you would expect to



see here. BEHIND THE SCENES: The game has been coded in-house. WHAT'S NEW: It's quite hard to say at this stage. This type of football game has come so far in the last couple of

Hey, it's a very big ball guys!

Hot goal mouth action and a nicely chequered pitch. What more could you ask of a football game?

years that it's difficult to find anything new to add to it.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS: It looks marvellous, but the proof of this kind of game is always in the playing. We'll have to see it running properly before judgement is passed.

However, it does have the official World Cup seal of approval so it must have something fairly special up its sleeve. Full review soon.

FIRST

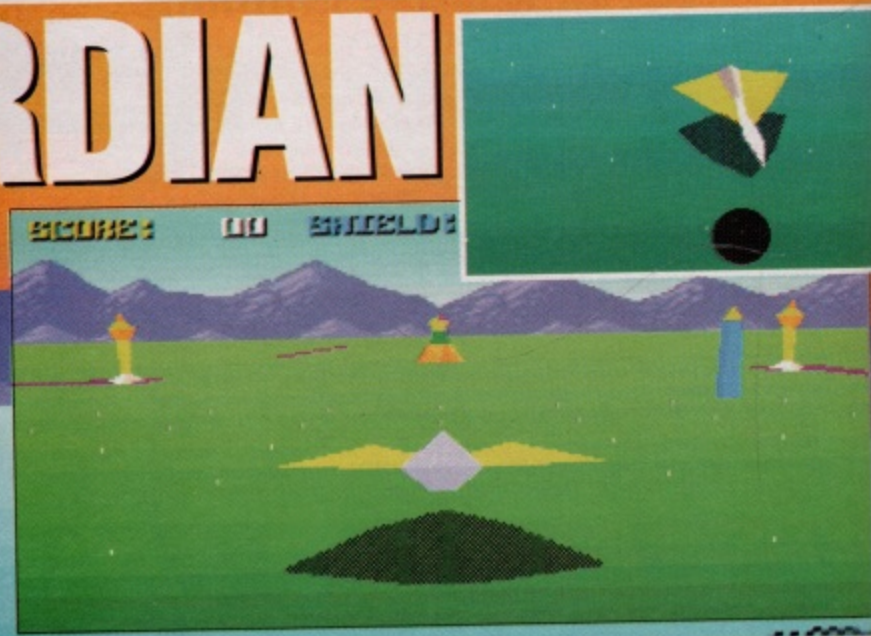


GUARDIAN

ACID SOFTWARE

THE GAMEPLAY: Take *Defender*, mix in a touch of the the Super Nintendo classic, *Starwing* and you've got some idea of what *Guardian* is like. Acid Software, the company that wowed the world with a PD version of *Defender* look as though they're about to hit the nail on the head again. Originally mission based, that idea went out the

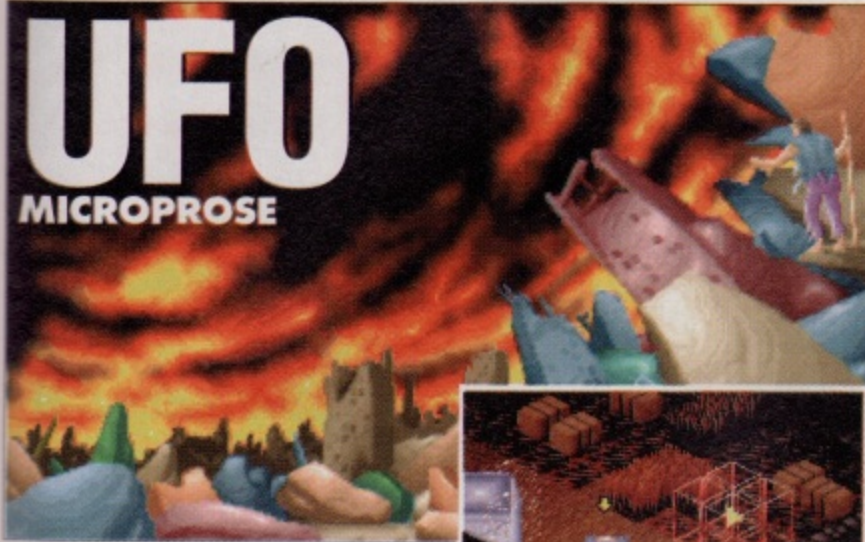
Does this look familiar? It should to those who like looking through SNES magazines. *Guardian*, originally titled *Sibwing*, is proof that we don't need Super FX chips!



FIRST IMPRESSIONS

UFO

MICROPROSE



THE GAMEPLAY: A mammoth tactical strategy wargame, in which the player has to defend the Earth against alien invasion. In the year 1999, sightings of alien craft have increased dramatically, as have stories of alien violence. It is time for the world to strike back.

BEHIND THE SCENES: *UFO* has been designed and coded by the Gollop Brothers, Julian and Nick, who



together make up Mythos Software, formerly Target Games. To refresh your memory, they were responsible for the smash hit *Laser Squad*, of which this game was originally meant to be a sequel.

WHAT'S NEW: The semi-random scenario generator. In the original *Laser Squad* you had a small selection of missions. This time however, each mission is randomly built from a series of blocks. Therefore every time you play it, it's different.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS: I was a big fan of *Laser Squad* and its predecessor, *Rebelstar Raiders*, so naturally I'm dead keen to see this.

It looks great, although somewhat larger than *Laser Squad*, I hope it doesn't lose the charm of that terrific Spectrum game.



The four towers in the first section need to have their power cut off before you can consider taking them on.

window in favour of a more standard blast 'em up, based on reflexes rather than thought.

BEHIND THE SCENES:

The game has been designed, coded and drawn by Acid's Mark Sibly, the mean axe-swinging Kiwi behind *Blitz Basic* and *Blitz Basic 2*. Mark realised that the A1200 and CD32 were easily capable of coming up with a Starwing beater, and so he set out to prove it.

WHAT'S NEW: The stunningly smooth animation, the hundreds of colours, the unique control method – more or less everything really. There

isn't a game like this on the Amiga, unless you count more serious interpretations such as Ocean's *EPIC* or the old classic *Starglider 2*.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS: I was impressed when I first saw *Guardian*, but now I'm flabbergasted. Even at this early stage, it's completely playable and very entertaining. Acid have a sure fire winner on their hands with this one, we'll have more news on it soon.



STAND RENOVATION



SOCCER MANAGER

THE SOFTWARE BUSINESS

THE GAMEPLAY: A football management game, as if you couldn't tell from the title, you have to (as always) take a nobody team from the bottom of the lowest division there is, and make them the Premier League champions.

As manager, you also need to look after finances and ground improvements, team training and everything else. It's a busy job.

BEHIND THE SCENES:

The game is being pieced together by Teque for Imagine, Home Entertainment's new software arm. Keith Waddams is the man responsible for the impressive game design, and he is confident that this is the managerial game to end all managerial games.

WHAT'S NEW: Surprisingly, quite a

few things. For a start, your manager actually gets older and finally retires when he reaches 55, so you're limited in the amount of



time you have to get your team to the top. Also, the game features a very subtle tactical editor, that will apparently make a real difference to how the game plays and your overall chances of winning.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS: If it plays as well as it looks and sounds, then this could be a refreshingly new departure in management games. However, there is always a chance that the tactical side to the game will be so subtle that it doesn't actually show. That aside, it's looking good.



HANGING WITH



WIP

Core Design readily admit that 1993 wasn't an Amiga year. But what's in store for 1994? Tony Dillon gets knocked out by the sheer number of products nearing completion.

Core Design are back with a vengeance, and Derby will never be the same again. Yes, '93 was a quiet year for them as far as the Amiga went, choosing to concentrate their efforts mainly on the console side of development, but now they have returned to the fold, and things look bigger and brighter than ever. As you can see from looking around these two pages, there is a lot on offer this year, and all of it looks stunning.

Shall I waste some more time, or



A lot of time has been spent getting the characters right, to aid merchandising.



Core have gone for an organic look with Skeleton Krew, hence the bony walls.

do you just want to hear about the games?

SKELETON KREW

This is one of the lead games for this year, and like a few of Core's efforts is being developed primarily for the CD32 and A1200 markets, with plans to create a 32 colour version later in the year.

Guy Miller, project manager and co-designer of the game gave me the brief one misty, cold February afternoon: "Set across six levels. It's a 3D isometric shoot 'em up starring the three characters of the Krew — Spine, Joint and Rib, who wear power exo-skeletons, hence the title. Basically, you are set against the evil Moribund Cadaver who is building a psycho machine, and is visiting the various planets in the solar system to get parts for it. You are always one step behind.

"It's a two-player game, each player choosing any of the three

characters available. Essentially, you just walk around shooting things and collecting power-ups."

Looking around Core's office, which should by now be Core's ex-office (Note: Core, who once took up a small corner in one of the rooms of the building they currently occupy, now need to move to a mansion twenty yards up the road to accommodate their three hundred programmers and two musicians), I



Skeleton Krew features a highly distinctive Japanese feel, with flesh and metal living together seamlessly.

HEIMDALL 2

Heimdall was a fine, fine game, and Heimdall 2 looks like it's going to be even better. Due to an ex-ditty feeling a bit annoyed at being banished from Asgard, and thus wandering around the world causing havoc, Heimdall has been pulled back to Earth once more to save the world. Yet again.

As you can see, the



Heimdall 2 looks like it could be the best RPG for a long time. Just go ahead and soak up that atmosphere.

game features the same isometric scrolling landscapes as before, all rendered in glorious Jerr O'Carroll-o-vision — not that you're going to have any time to waste on looking at pretty pictures. You're going to have your hands tied just solving the puzzles with this one.



BANSHEE

Eat lead! Imagine a planet where there have never been any World Wars. Because there has never been the need, technology hasn't advanced any further than the power-propped fighter plane. So the scene is set for a 1942/Flying Shark style airborne vertically scrolling shoot 'em up, with 256 colour visuals and more silky smooth animation than you could shake an arcade machine at. This is another move by Core to step away from their reputation for only launching platform games, and golly, it looks amazing.

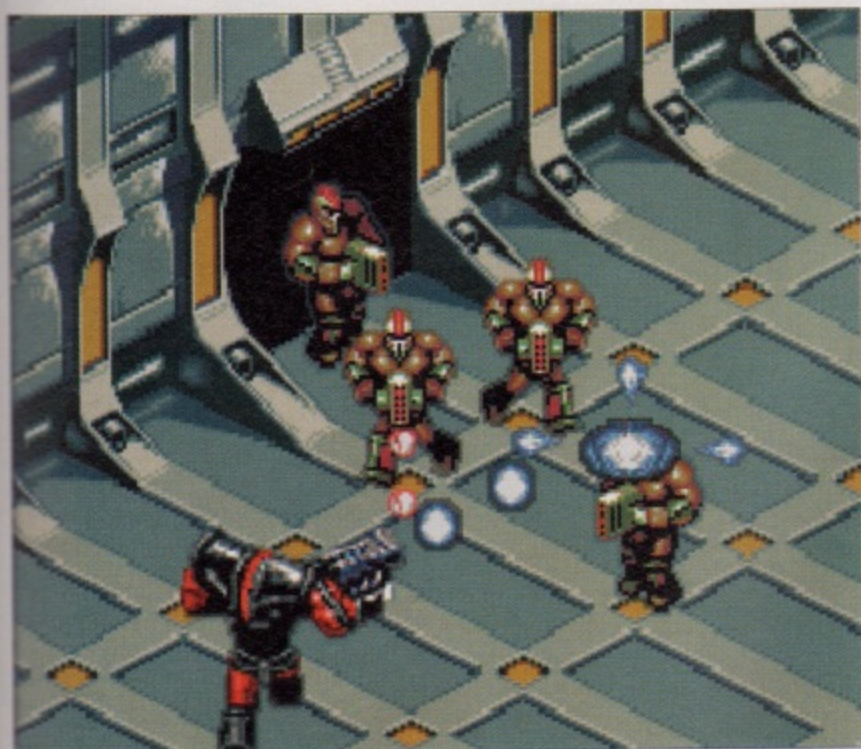
Designed and coded by Danish pair Soren Hanibal and Jacob Anderson, the AGA-only game features everything from



A 256 colour shoot em up is what the A1200 is crying out for — poor baby.

large exploding desert bases to small exploding soldiers. As shoot em up's go, this one looks like it could really show the world what the CD32 and A1200 are capable of. We wait with baited breath.

THE CORE KREW



Let's admit it, *Skeleton Krew* is a bit of a blast festival.

see a bunch of happy, contented, well groomed young men and women. Who could be responsible for a game that is so packed with violence I asked?

"Chris Long actually came up with the concept of a 3D isometric scrolling shoot em up, as there didn't seem to be many of them around. Not good ones anyway. James and I then got together and came up with the idea of the Krew, and it all went from there really," replies Mr Miller.

One interesting point is that each character is split, essentially made up



of two sprites, which means you can get a 360 degree rotation with the top sprite while the bottom walks in any direction, just like the classic Ikari Warriors coin-op I used to pump so much money into, back in the good old days. Joint is the only character who can actually perform a full 360 spin though, both of the other characters are restricted to lesser swings to the left and right.

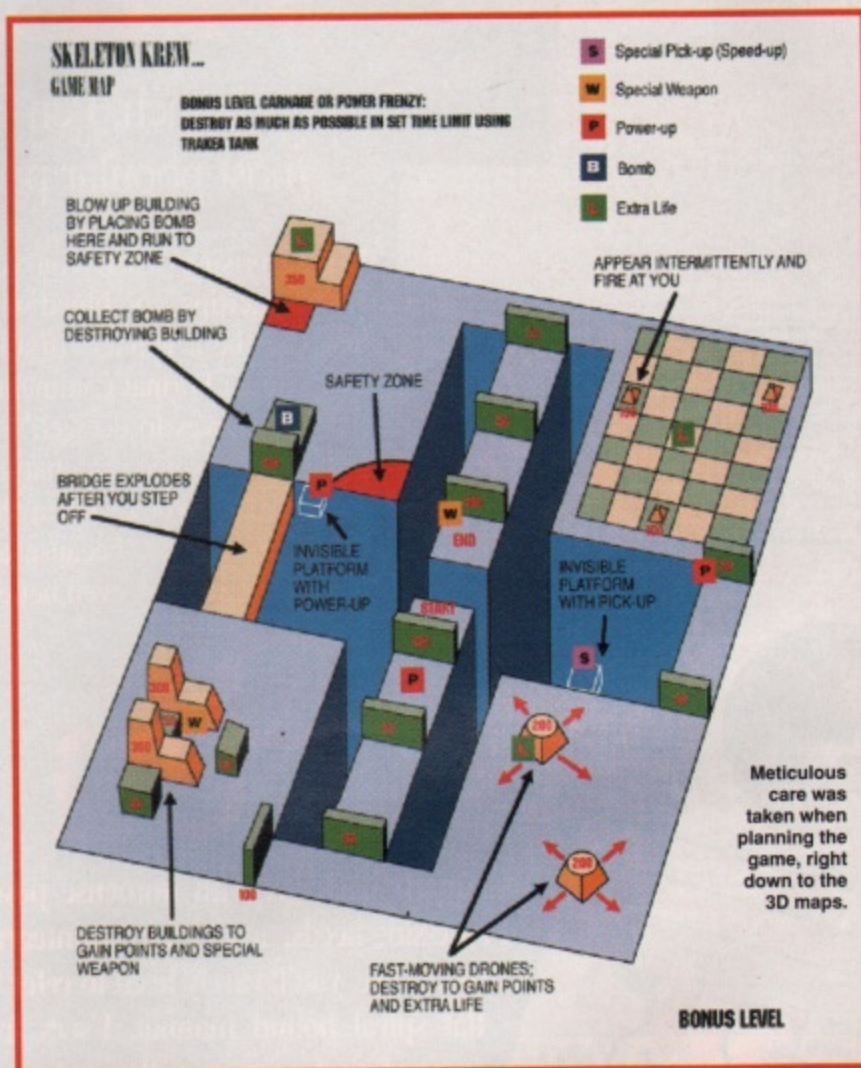
As you can see from the screen-shots, it's going to be a blast fest, with big guns and big death ahoy. But it's not all killing you know.

One of the things that makes this game different is that in certain parts

of the game you can actually get into or on to vehicles, such as tanks and jet skis. There's a really fast scrolling sequence when you're on a jet ski, which looks like it's going to be a real reflex test.

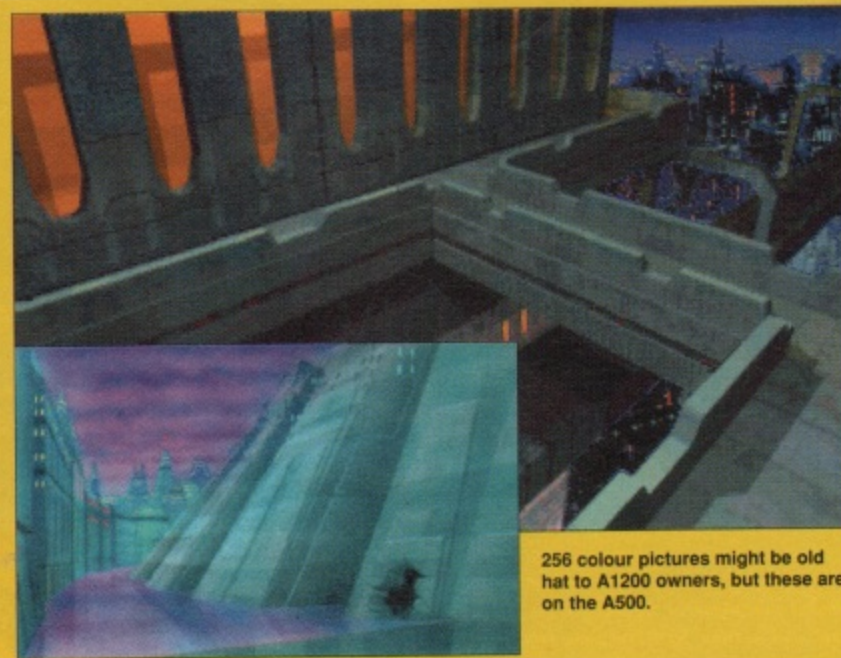
More than that is impossible to tell you about at the moment. Other

that there are big plans to market this one: badges, pens, mugs, T-shirts, stuffed toys, jackets and comics are just some of the licenced products Core hope to back it up with. Get used to the name, because you're going to see a hell of a lot more of it this year! **CU**



UNIVERSE

Core return to the graphic adventure field with their sequel to the highly successful *Curse Of Enchantia*. This time our hero has been dropped into another dimension, and you have to find your way back to your own Universe. As you would expect, it's full of glorious images and tortuous puzzles, but what really stands out about it at this point is the fact that the game features 256 colour graphics on every machine, not just the AGA ones! We'll have a full review soon.



256 colour pictures might be old hat to A1200 owners, but these are on the A500.

DARKSTONE

"And lo, it came to pass, that the three Wyrd Crystals, comprising the Bright Trinity by which the first King Of Midworld had banished the Dragontime from his lands, were stolen by Myrdir, the great Dragon."

Yes, it does sound like your typical RPG spiel, but quite nicely makes way for a game which many feel is well needed on the Amiga - a *Zelda* style RPG, based more on puzzles than any clever character play. Sure, there are characters to act out, but Core is confidently aiming to plug a gap in the market with *Darkstone*, a game originally drafted to be the sequel to *Darkmere*, but one that has changed so much that it can now stand, unsupported, on its own two feet.

It's early days for this cracking-looking game, but already it looks like it's going to be a big one. If you remember the old Origin classic *Times Of Lore*, you'll already have some idea of how promising this game could be. More when we get it.

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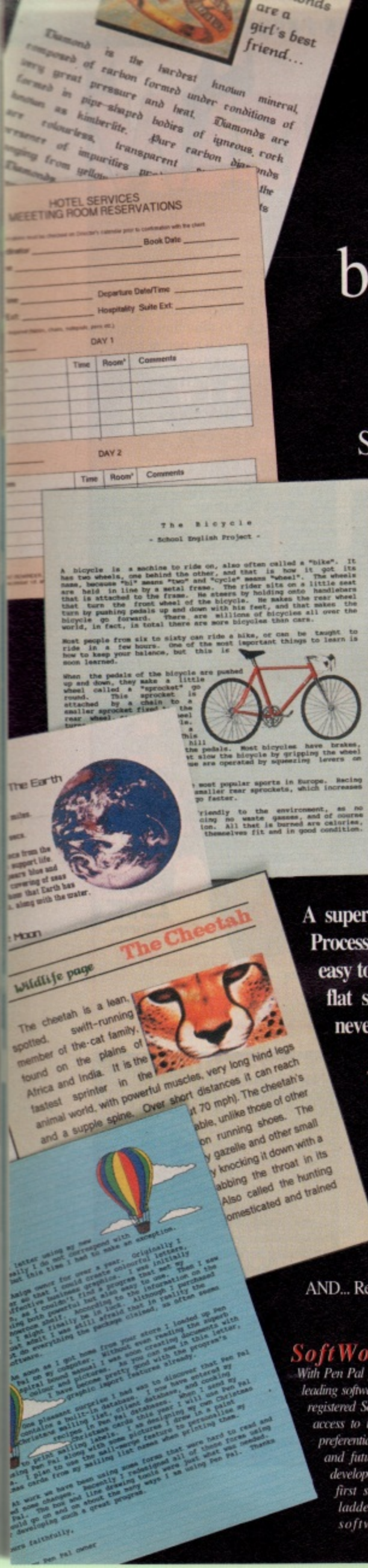
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SWITCHQUIZ

Steve Keen, angel of sobriety, tests his encyclopaedic knowledge against an accessorized pub quiz for the Amiga.



Everything you need for a good night in: Switchquiz, a drink of your choosing and everyone's favourite nut.

Anyone who has even been down to their local with the innocent intention of just having a swift half will, most likely, have come into contact with the dreaded pub quiz.

The pub quiz is a strange beast that captures the imaginations of adults and turns them into something akin to the Delphi Oracle.

It all starts so well. You sit down, blunt pencil and two sheets of carbon paper in hand, with all the optimism of a fourth division football team in the cup final and you think that you can take on anything.

But, by the end of the night, reality rears its ugly head and, although you thought you knew the answer to life, the universe and everything,

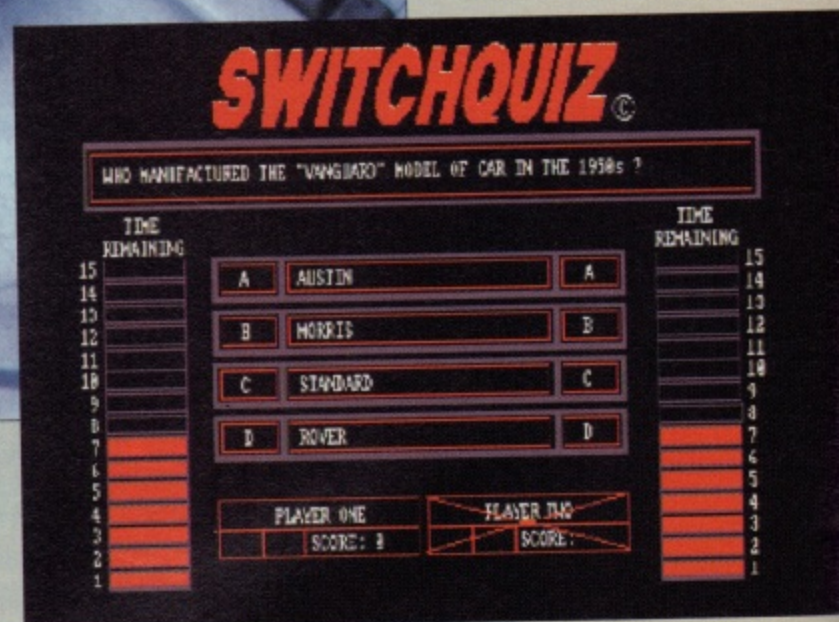
your 15 out of 40 score sheet suggests different.

THE BARE BONES

Switchquiz tries to mirror the phenomenon that is pub quiz. It comes on two disks, the main programme and a question disk. Although there's a distinct lack of snazzy presentation or any kind of illustrative graphics, it's very easy to get into and surprisingly user friendly. Once the main programme's loaded the disk accessing stops and there aren't any annoying pauses between questions whilst the computer skips to another part of the disk. You may think that might be obvious, but I've sat once too often, twiddling my thumbs, waiting for the next question to come up, whilst the

left and right of the screen there are two bars divided into 15 segments. Each one represents one second of time and on the default game you have eight seconds to answer each question. If you or your opponent get a question wrong the other player will have the chance to answer in the time remaining. The quicker you answer the question the more points you'll have added to your score. The first one to 75 wins the contest.

Just about every aspect of the quiz can be customised to suit the players' abilities. You can alter the amount of time you have to read the question, the time it takes for the answers to appear, the number of points needed to win a game and how many seconds you have to answer the



drive chugs away on lesser packages.

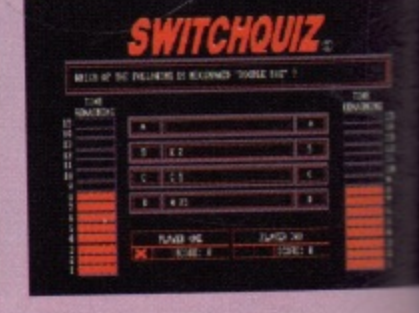
PLAYING AROUND

Switchquiz couldn't follow a simpler or more familiar path. There are two different packages available, a two-player and a four-player version. Just select the number of players in the game and away you go. Each player has a certain amount of time to answer the multiple choice questions. The question is typed out at the top of the screen and the four different answers revealed in the centre, one at a time under A, B, C and D. Along the

question. There's also a feature that allows you to discover the correct answer if you get you guess incorrectly, which a bit pointless — you'd soon get through all the questions on the disk if you do this.

THE LEADER OF THE PACK

There have been more than a few general knowledge games on Commodore's machines, from the simplistic PD, mouse operated quizzes to the old CDTV version of *Trivial Pursuit*. However, *Switchsoft's*





The answers appear slowly, so you have to be a quick reader.

package is the first to try and introduce a proper team competition aspect to the genre with the addition of some special hardware that comes in the package.

With the two-player parcel comes a controller interface and two black box controllers which act as buzzers. Each black box has four buttons, representing the A, B, C and D multiple choice answers. A quick jab on these lets you answer the questions – a much more preferable means of interacting with the game than a mouse, and one which provides a real feeling of competition, especially when playing a human opponent. The programme also lets you skip the question part of the disk and just use the Priority game. This gives you all the functions of the depleting clock and buzzers, just in case you want to sit around your monitor or TV and ask your own questions, or read off cards.

DOWN TO BUSINESS

So that's the package, but how does it play? Well there's no denying that we had a lot of fun around the office with the novel black box controllers in two-player mode, but the software did seem lacking in a few respects. Firstly, in a two-player game you can't tell which answer your opponent has gone for. If he gets the question wrong before you his guess is not indicated. So, even though you have the rest of the time to go for the correct answer you've still got to guess the right one out of

the original four. Although the hand controllers are infinitely better than any mouse or keyboard interface for this sort of game, the buttons are very old fashioned, the kind of homemade looking affairs that you find in electronics classes at school. They're not too responsive either and, if the battering we gave them

around the office is anything to go by, they could wear out pretty quickly. Also, after only three rounds of competition the questions started to repeat themselves every now and again. More than ten games later though, the software was still managing to come up with fresh questions, not seen in previous rounds. However, for a few extra pence, another disk would make the package more interesting.

Gripes aside, in two-player mode, Switchquiz was a lot of fun. A couple of small Harry Enfield samples and a catchy ditty at the beginning of the game pepped up the overall and the novel interface method made this the best quiz master package I've seen. More general knowledge, sport and pop music disks are available to bolster the main programme disk and extend its life, as well as a special Question Creator package that lets you programme in your own questions and answers.

Get a takeaway in and a few mates around before settling down. It's more fun than sitting in the dark on your own. **CU**

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RELEASE DATE: MARCH
GENRE: QUIZ
TEAM: DAVID CADMAN
CONTROLS: MOUSE/INTERFACE
NUMBER OF DISKS: 2
NUMBER OF PLAYERS: 2
HARD DISK INSTALLABLE: YES
MEMORY: 512K

GRAPHICS: 30%
SOUND: 35%
LASTABILITY: 77%
PLAYABILITY: 85%

At face value a pleasing quiz game with questionable lasting appeal.

OVERALL 79%



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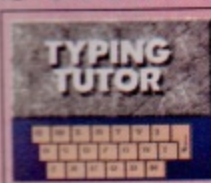
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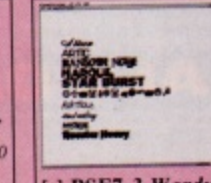
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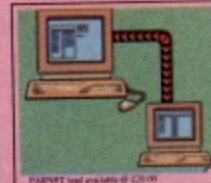
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(Below) "Mum, look what I made in Biology today!"
 (Right) Bubble falls to certain death among the snakes.



BUBBLE & SQUEAK

Have Audiogenic come up with the ultimate Amiga platform game? Or is it just another old formula yawn? Tony Dillon gets a taste of *Bubble and Squeak*.

There have been numerous successful double acts in the past: Abbot and Costello, Morecombe and Wise, Little and Large etc. All have been funny (with the exception of Little and Large perhaps, unless you happen to like Deputy Dawg impersonations ten years after the program has ceased being broadcast), yet this double act scenario has never really been as popular in the games market as it has on TV.

Of course there have been partnerships in the past – Mario and Luigi, or Bub and Bob for instance – but the sad thing is that these characters have always been *pairs*, not *partners*. It's one of the golden rules of comedy that if you are going to have two people interacting, one of them has to be the straight man. Two wacky and amusing characters just don't work. And this is perhaps the key to *Bubble & Squeak's* appeal. Not only are the

characters interesting and fun to watch, you'll also find that they are, in fact, a true comedy double act. Add that to the fact that it's also an immensely playable game, with tons of puzzles and extra curriculum platform fare and you've got something special.

But before I tell you any more, let me introduce you to the two heroes of the show: Bubble is a small boy, who looks a bit like Charlie Brown and seems quite normal in every respect, apart from the fact that he's prematurely bald and has a pet monster called Squeak. Squeak is a mini dinosaur/dragon in the Flintstones 'Dino' mould – very loyal, but not quite as mad (or smart) as Fred and Wilma's 'little' pet.

However, the big question is, how does it all work? On the back of the box (always a good place to start), the game describes itself as a combination of platform game, puzzler and shoot 'em up, all rolled into one, and

I'd have to agree with them.

Even though there are two main characters, *Bubble and Squeak* isn't actually a two-player game. Instead, you control Bubble as he runs around the thirty enormous levels, while he, in turn, controls Squeak. Confused? Don't worry, it will all become clear in a moment.

Squeak, who has his own individual personality, follows Bubble

Squeak will follow you wherever you go, and he does so with a smile on his face. The fool.





(Above) Squeak stays where he's told to, while Bubble scouts ahead. The duck with the baseball bat can knock your bullets back at you. (Left) By kicking Squeak, he rolls into a ball and rockets around the screen. The curved walls direct him around the level.

then bends over, allowing you to jump on his back. From this point on, you can run faster than normal, jump higher than ever and fire bubbles at the enemy, which are faster than the stars that Bubble normally fires across the screen.

Travelling around on Squeak's back is not only a very useful way to get around the various screens,



it's also the only way you're going to be able to solve many of the puzzles the game throws at you.

Bubble and Squeak is a real treat to watch, with some of the most eye-catching and crisp sprites ever seen in an Amiga game. As mentioned earlier these sprites make for a funny comedy duo combination, with expressive faces and cute in-depth detail.

Developed for the AGA chipset, the game is only available on A1200 at the moment, with a CD32 version coming soon. And, believe me, the graphic artists have made extremely good use of the 256 colour chipset.

Glorious backdrops and smooth animation obviously can't be clearly illustrated in still screenshots, but you have to admit, the game sure does have a lot of character.

This flows over into the aural side of *Bubble and Squeak* too. Some simple but effective tunes play along behind the amusing sound effects, which include some wonderful samples of Bubble ordering Squeak around: "Wait here", he cries, "Come on", he shouts impatiently.

This is a very, very playable game. The controls, even on a three button pad, are logically worked out, and you'll have no trouble at all completing a couple of levels on your first attempt.

Things get pretty hard as the game goes on, but you'll be having so much fun you won't even notice. *Bubble & Squeak* is one of the most playable and original platform games to ever hit the Amiga.

If you're an A1200 owner and you don't buy this, then you probably just don't like games, do you? **CU**



Vats of bubbling acid, flying elephants who sneeze at you and a small boy with a dazed smile. What can it all mean?



A quick guide to getting into 'Join' mode. 1) Insert a coin into the bubblegum machine. 2) Kick the gum ball into the air. 3) Squeak catches it and bends over. 4) Climb onto his back and you become SuperBubbleSqueakman, or something.

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RELEASE DATE: MARCH
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TEAM: IN HOUSE
CONTROLS: JOYSTIC
NUMBER OF DISKS: 2
NUMBER OF PLAYERS: 1
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MEMORY: 1Mb

GRAPHICS: ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦ 94%
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KINGS QUEST VI

Step into the unknown once more with Revolution's latest edition to the phenomenal King's Quest series. Steve Keen dons his codpiece and scratches his noggin in preparation for another adventure – when will it ever end?

What have the Tories, the Queen's Christmas speech, and the *Kings Quest* series got in common? You feel like they could all go on for ever. However, where the latter of this trio is concerned this is not such a bad thing. The *Kings Quest* PC games have always been at the forefront in adventure gaming technology and quality.

These adventures are known for their size and detail. And while converting a VGA game the size of number six to the Amiga is no easy task, the shoe-horning skills of the programmers at Revolution have been well utilised and almost everything seen in the PC version has been put into this version.

ONCE UPON A TIME

Plots are everything to adventures so here's a smattering of *Kings Quest* V's. Lucky prince Alexander, on his way to visit his beautiful beau, princess Cassima, gets shipwrecked. I say lucky because out of all the islands he could have been washed up on he manages to come to rest on the shores of the very isle he was trying to get to in the first place. Upon

and restore happiness to the isle – not bad work if you can get it.

Graphic adventures seem to either get bogged down with frustratingly-complicated mouse commands or have you running backwards and forwards around dozens of screens and whirring through hours of disk accessing time, just to complete a single task. *Kings Quest*, however, manages to steer clear of these problems because it features a very user-friendly mouse interface. There

quickly. No more rummaging through scores of menus to get at your possessions.

SPEEDY GONZALEZ!

Walking around the four islands is just as painless. Simply click where you want Alexander to end up and he'll do the rest, walking around objects or taking the quickest available route. And boy does this guy shift. No pointless ambling or Sunday stroll for this prince, he's a veritable Linford Christie as he strides forcefully from one task to the next.

Frustrating amounts of mouse commands have also been reduced by the system, allowing you to perform a series of manoeuvres with a single mouse action. If you want to examine something on the other side of the screen, just select examine, click on the distant object and that's it, Alex will walk over, pick it up, look at it, tell you what it is and then automat-

more complex, full game. The complex version centres around a magical book with three special spells in it. Every spell requires several ingredients and in order you get hold of these you must pay great attention to detail. For example, in one section you'll find a poem. You can either



Can't a man get a little rest around here, what with all this searching and weaving spells?

dump it or send it to Cassima. She will in turn send you back a ribbon from her hair. Nothing special in itself, but if you examine the ribbon closely you might just find that it contains the final ingredient needed to complete a spell.

Kings Quest VI really is a brilliant conversion on the Amiga. The background graphics are sharp and with animated forest creatures, such as rabbits and birds etc, adding to the ambiance, the game throws up delight after delight. The characters and animations for the main sprites, are also spot on. *Kings Quest VI*s control method makes it one of the easiest adventures to play. The sound effects and background music, could have been better – they lacked some life, but that shouldn't put you off this princely game. **CU**



Above: Hi-ho, hi-ho, it's off to find Cassima and her parents we go.

Left: Hmm, can I have two pints of lager and a packet of crisps please... sorry wrong shop.

ically switch to the appropriate icon for you to act accordingly.

GET IT ON

Four islands have to be negotiated, as well as a secret one later on in the game. Every isle has a different theme, with different challenges, ranging from the mechanical to the truly mental! Isle Of The Beast is home of the enchanted monster, which looks like something straight out of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. The main challenge in this section is to find the 'beast' a companion, but on the way there are mazes to negotiate, boiling ponds to cross and mystical statues to dodge.

The game has two paths for you to follow. A quick and easy route, where your only headache is to collect the bare essentials to get into the castle and rescue the damsel, or the



visiting the princess, Alex has an inkling that all's not well as the once-friendly island has turned hostile and the evil Vizier has taken command of the settlement with plans to marry the young princess. All you've have to do is find out what's going on, rescue Cassima, find her parents (and bring them back to life), defeat the Vizier

are four commands: walk, talk, touch and look. By clicking on the right mouse button you can quickly scroll through them until the pointer changes to the correct icon and then activate the command with a push on the left. A fifth icon is reserved for a single object that you've picked up so that it can be kept to hand and used

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RELEASE DATE: MARCH
GENRE: ADVENTURE
TEAM: REVOLUTION
CONTROLS: MOUSE
NUMBER OF DISKS: 8
NUMBER OF PLAYERS: 1
HARD DISK INSTALLABLE: YES
MEMORY: 512K

GRAPHICS ☒ 89%
SOUND ☒ 76%
LASTABILITY ☒ 89%
PLAYABILITY ☒ 93%

A welcome and slick addition to the genre.

OVERALL 89%

A game based on the American Civil War, eh? I'll tell you this for nothing, it won't catch on over here. Jumping straight into the *Gone With The Wind* era isn't the most engaging of subjects for us 'limeys' to bother with, preferring as we do to mess with our own history rather than someone else's.

Edward Grabowski may not be the most familiar name on this 'side of the pond', but Stateside he's renowned from Baltimore to Yazoo County for his Micro Miniatures wargame system and he's turned up again with *The Blue And The Gray*, your chance to be General Lee or Stonewall Jackson.

Quite a few of Impressions' strategy titles have employed this top-down tabletop-style engine and frankly, in my opinion, it doesn't work half as well as they think it does.

The initial stages of forming armies and planning strategies on the big ol' American map, checking on resources and second-guessing the enemy is both engrossing and friendly to use. The trouble is that you eventually have to get into a fight – and then the Micro Miniatures section pops up and manages to spoil the party for everyone.

This is a shame because *The Blue And The Gray* is in fact a very absorbing look into the American Civil War until the direct combat system rears its ugly head.

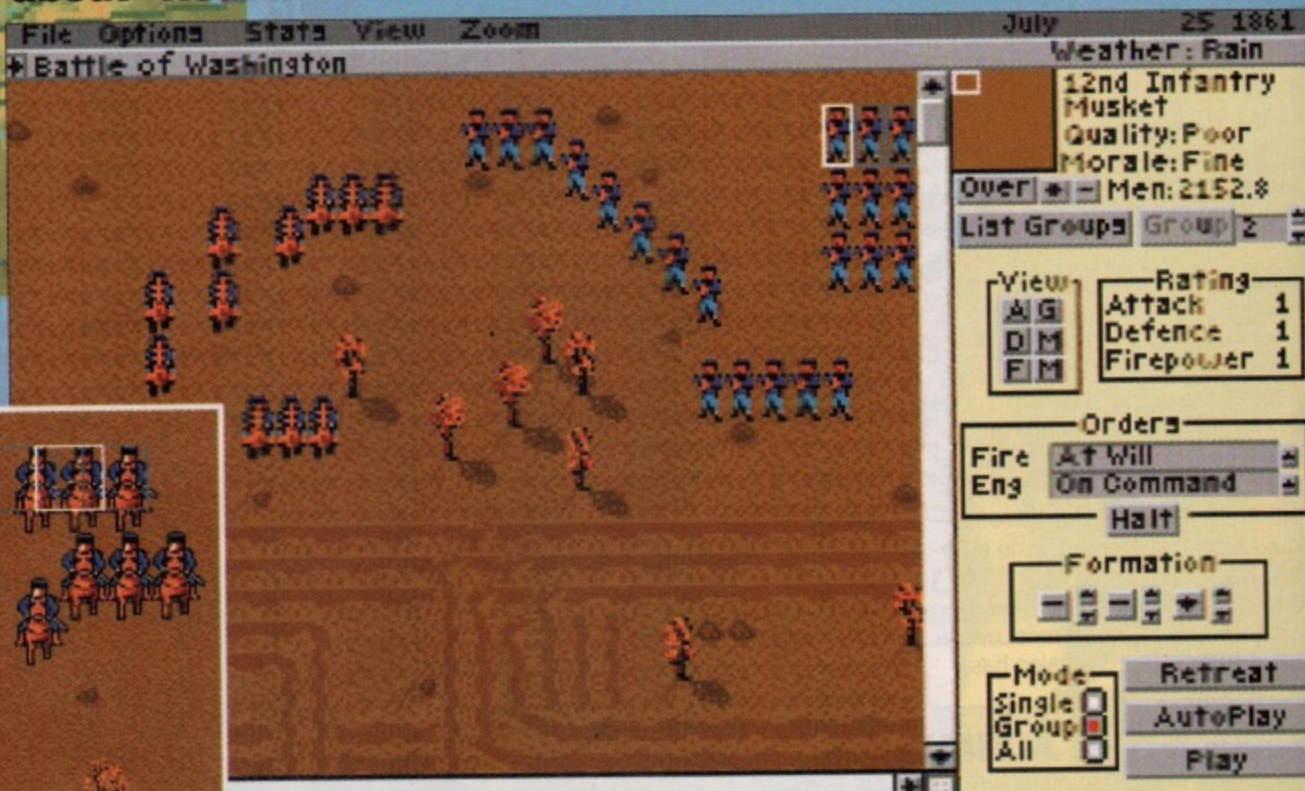
Edward Grabowski has attempted to produce the most comprehensive account of America's biggest internal conflict, using real-life history from the period to add colour to the actual game. You even have the option of reading about important historical moments in the conflict as and when you get to them in the game. There's also a rather thick booklet in the package, recounting the whole war and its effect on America today.

All the strategic planning takes place from here. You can move troops, resupply, attack towns, board trains. Just about anything really.



THE BLUE & THE GRAY

Ever the patriot, Paul Presley turns his nose up at the American Civil War and stomps off muttering something about "Roundheads and Cavaliers" and "That was a real war."



So why is it bad? User-

unfriendliness is the plain and simple answer. Graphically it's not so hot either but that's never really been a problem as far as wargames are concerned. I've yet to see one that looks as good as the average beat 'em up, shoot 'em up or any other kind of 'em up that populates the Amiga market. Instead, we seem to be cursed to live with poorly animated sprites that have no real sense of proportion to their surroundings.

Graphics aside, the Micro Miniatures system is one that seems to have been designed with the artificial intelligence factor at the top of its list of priorities – while decent control has taken a back seat. From setting up your troops to keeping track of them all on the field, the whole system just doesn't allow you to get comfortable – and with a strategy game this is very important.

Issuing orders, strategic battle methods and realism aren't this game's strong

points: You can tell everyone, a particular group or a single unit to go to a set position on screen and then engage the enemy, but little else. You can't issue orders to take cover, to set up ambushes, to make hit and run attacks or any other tactic that is so often the cause of a great victory. Sure, it's a fine system for calculating the results of X number of men on one side, fighting Y number on the other, but that's it.

You do have the option of not playing the battle sections at all, instead allowing the computer to make the calculations and just tell you the result. Ordinarily, this might have been enough for me, concentrating on getting the strategic elements right. The trouble is that the subject matter is one that begs you to play out each conflict, as the period was rife with battlefield heroism and strong, enigmatic characters leading the fight against overwhelming odds. Plus it doesn't do your strategic planning and operation any justice to see it all result in a number crunching battle when you know that by clever on-field tactics you could outwit a much larger foe. *The Blue And The Gray* needs a more usable battle interface. One that allows for all sorts of situations and events. Without it, it's a hollow fight. **CU**

If you need to see more of the action as it unfolds, you can zoom out a level, making the Micro Miniatures even smaller. The trickiest part of any battle is the preparation. Can you be sure your hard-worked plans will be effective on the day?

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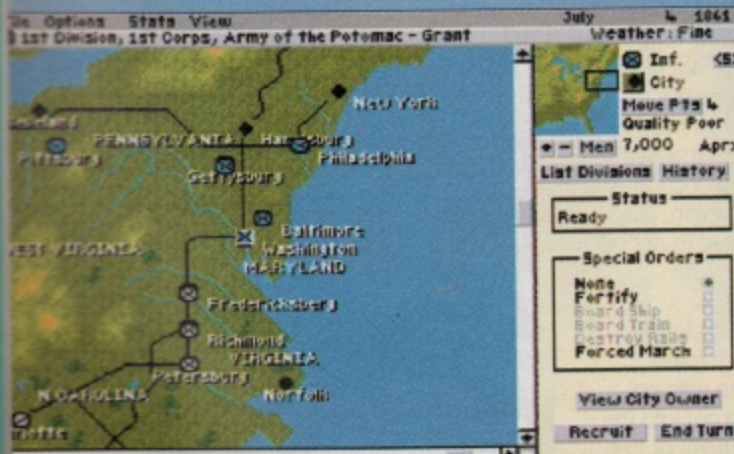
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RELEASE DATE: OUT NOW
GENRE: WARGAME
TEAM: EDWARD GRABOWSKI
CONTROLS: MOUSE
NUMBER OF DISKS: 3
NUMBER OF PLAYERS: 1/2
HARD DISK INSTALLABLE: YES
MEMORY: 1Mb

GRAPHICS ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦70%
SOUND ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦68%
LASTABILITY ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦79%
PLAYABILITY ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦66%

A good wargame, let down by the actual combat section.

OVERALL 69%



LIBERATION CAPTIVE 2



The world's greatest CD32 game makes it onto the floppies. Tony Dillon wonders how they managed to cram so much in.

What's this? *Liberation* on five floppy disks? Can't be done, surely? I've played the thing on CD32 for many days and nights, and I can tell you now that it's a monster. An enormous, sprawling city of an adventure, it would take considerably more than a Red Bus Rover to get around this game in a day. There can't really be any way of doing this on an A500 – convincingly anyway, is there?

Those were my first thoughts on opening the envelope from Burgess Hill that dropped on my desk one cold morning. Fifteen minutes later, I realised how much I had underestimated the skills of Tony Crowther. *Liberation* on disk is almost identical to *Liberation* on CD, with the exception of the in-game speech. But, for the moment, let's assume you haven't seen the CD version.

Trill, the hero of the original captive, is now free. At least, free enough to discover a police conspiracy and get completely caught up in it. The

The foot of a staircase is a very vulnerable place to stand. Luckily for you, you can look all around.

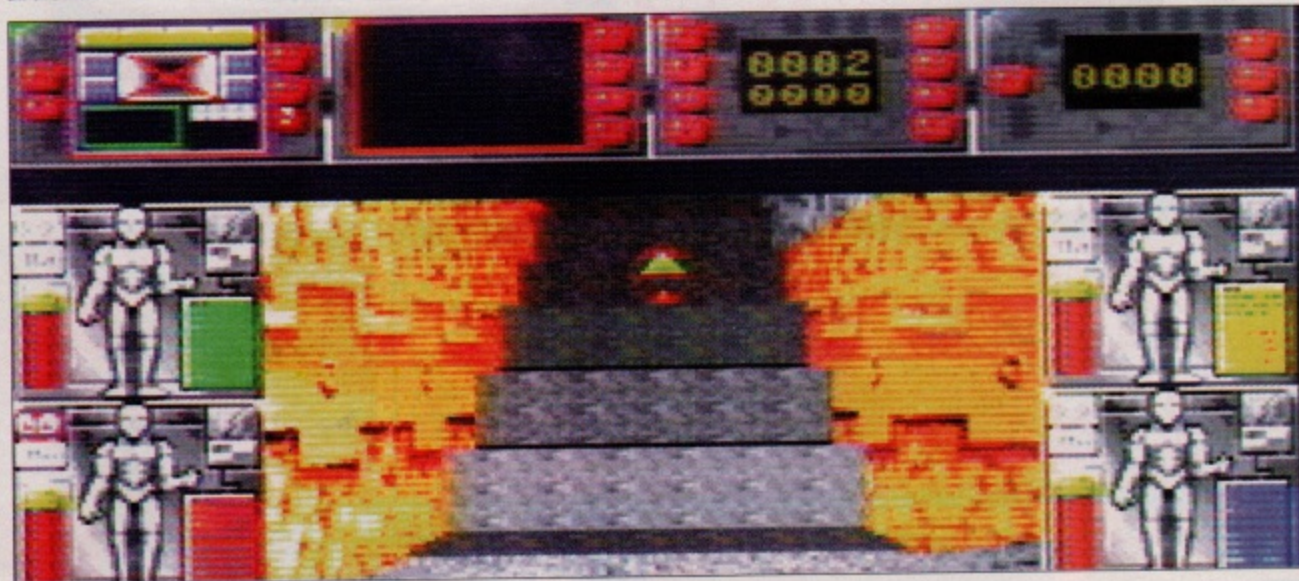


(Top) As you wander around, you will find chips that allow you to tailor the game. (Left) Computers will happily give you directions, but not much else.

police interrogation robots have some major flaws, and somehow always seem to end up killing the people they are meant to be interrogating. To cover this up, the fuzz are hiding the evidence and planting the blame on a lot of innocent people. As is usual with these games, you are the only person outside the police force who knows this, and as a result they are after you in a big way. Which leaves you with a couple of simple aims; free all the innocent captives, and expose the police for the treacherous bunch they are. It won't be easy, but then no-one ever said it would be.

Like so many Tony Crowther products, this is a real step away from the norm when it comes to sleuth-style adventure games. Probably the closest thing I can compare it to is *Legends Of Valour*, in which you start with a basic aim and a couple of addresses, then you're let loose in the city without any idea of where you're going. In *Liberation* you start outside the City Records office in the middle of town and from there have to find your way around, and it's surprisingly daunting.

Imagine being dropped in the middle of a strange land without a map or a guide to the local laws and



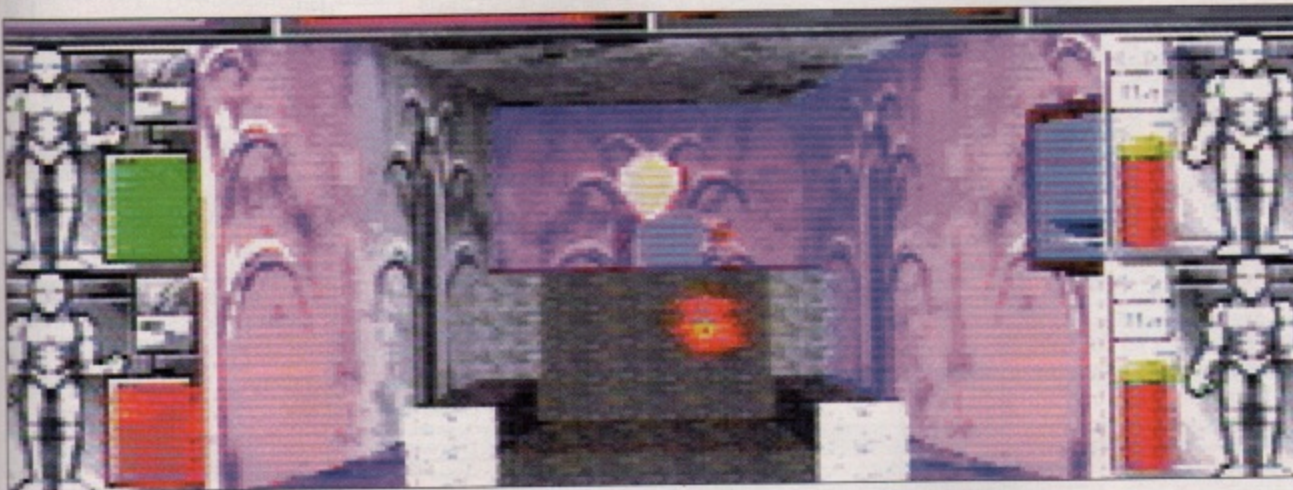


City mapper
No device found, to navigate.
Hello, and welcome to a Navi' Com.
Just select your destination from my list and I shall endeavour to navigate you there.
Error 957. NetLink lost. Directions Unavailable.
Goshanbin DataNet apologise for any inconvenience.
No device found, to navigate.

By using curves instead of straight lines, Liberation gives a real feeling of depth. I can see for miles and miles and miles and miles...

THE HARDER THE BETTER

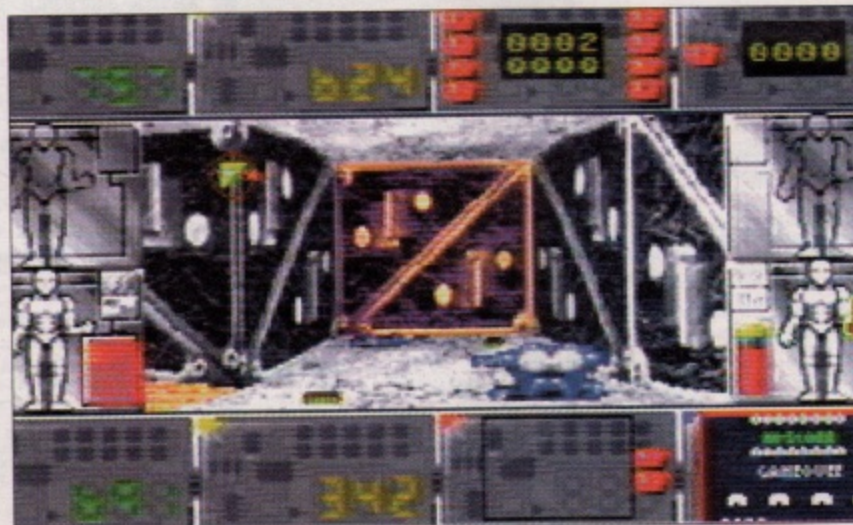
Although *Liberation* can be run from floppy, try to get hold of a hard drive to see what it really can do. There are big improvements, like faster loading times and better flowing gameplay, while the improved graphics make the game look stunning. Instead of four varieties of wall when a building is loaded, you can have up to 71 different types, plus you can decide the detail level of each texture map as it is generated. 'fast but crude' makes for a smooth frame rate, whereas 'lovely but slow' is exactly the opposite.



Could this fully furnished flat be within your range? No seriously, you never know what you can find down the backs of sofas.

told to find one specific brick in a wall. That should give you some idea of the sheer size of the challenge that faces you. Still, in true 'I know a man who can' tradition, the first thing you need to do is start questioning people. Unfortunately, the natives look anything but happy or friendly, so even knowing whether to smile or open fire is a challenge in itself. That said, most are willing to engage in conversation with you, if only to tell you to get lost. But, with your meagre bundle of facts and a shortlist of addresses, you've got to start the questions rolling somehow. And hope for some answers.

Before too long though you've got contacts, keys and more information than you know what to do with. You arrange meetings with people, walk into traps, take the wrong turning into dark alleyways and do all sorts of other things only found in truly great detective movies. That in itself



makes *Liberation* a great game, but there's so much more to it than that.

For one thing, it looks fabulous. Texture mapped, light-sourced polygons make up all of the people and creatures in the game, as they walk around full colour, texture mapped buildings and streets.

The game has the sort of realism that until now was unseen in this

Strange spider creatures aren't the only nasty things that go for your blood. There are little guys with great big eyes too.

kind of adventure – okay, so it isn't *Doom*, but it's still extremely impressive.

Playing from floppy rather than a hard drive does limit the number of different texture maps available – generally only four different wall patterns are held in memory at any one point whereas playing from hard drive gives you access to 71 different patterns provided you have the space. Even with four different patterns, the way light and colour has been used to show distance makes each room look quite individual.

If *Legends Of Valour* had one flaw, it was the fact that most of the

buildings looked the same, so it was easy to get lost. Real cities aren't like that, and this game shows how they should be represented.

Through clever use of text, graphics and sound Tony Crowther has managed to create a game that is well paced, tense and incredible addictive. Part of you wants to take it easy and examine ever corner, while another part of you wants to keep running, and jumps every time a police droid rounds a corner.

To be honest, the couple of weeks I've had with this game just aren't enough to give you a complete review – this is the kind of game you'll need to spend at least a month playing before you are fully conversant with it.

This is easily one of the best games I have ever played, and one I will most likely keep returning to for months on end.

A very sophisticated game for very sophisticated gamers. **CU**

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RELEASE DATE: OUT NOW
GENRE: ADVENTURE
TEAM: TONY CROWTHER
CONTROLS: MOUSE
NUMBER OF DISKS: 5
NUMBER OF PLAYERS: 1
HARD DISK INSTALLABLE: YES
MEMORY: 1.3 Mb

GRAPHICS ☒ 95%
SOUND ☒ 82%
LASTABILITY ☒ 98%
PLAYABILITY ☒ 95%

One of the best Amiga games ever.

OVERALL 96%

MAKING ROOM

There has always been a difficulty in the past when it comes to deciding how an inventory should work. Should you be restricted to a certain number of objects, or should the whole thing be worked out using encumbrance rules. *Liberation* uses a revolutionary method that says, 'if you can get it to fit, you can carry it'. Your backpack has a limited amount of space, and each object you place in it takes up some of it. The thing is, you've also got to make sure that once you have the object in the backpack, you can actually slide it out, or you'll have to start taking other items out of the way every time you want to use something such as a keycard. It's this attention to detail that makes *Liberation* as cool as it is.

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Two cute little Blues Brothers lookalikes are happily strolling along, when suddenly the sky darkens, the wind starts to howl (I'm getting scared) and next thing you know they're plunged into a maze-like nightmare. To escape they must battle their way through five mad, bad, and dangerous platform worlds.

WORLDS APART

First up is the world of the Mad Mechanics, and no it's got nothing to do with Kevin from Coronation Street going berserk with spanner. Mad Mechanics world is, in fact, a land of evil robots and deadly bouncy balls which you must race through, making sure to pick up the various bonuses lying around.

Next, it's Crazy Clocks world where you must watch out for killer cuckoo clocks before coming up against the enormous end-of-level giant clock. Once you've clocked up enough mileage (aggh!) here it's on to the next level – Foreign Affair. Here you to get to be James Bond for a while. Well, not exactly, but we can all live in hope. After Foreign Affair, it's on to sizzling action in Furious Fire world before finally reaching the last one – Evil Egypt.

Apart from racing from one world to the next there are also lots of hid-

den bonus screens littered throughout *Naughty Ones*. For example, in Mad Mechanics, on the very first screen, if you leap to the far left hand side you will discover a bonus level where you can pick up loads of extra points by bouncing from one descending platform to another before you eventually fall off.

Throughout the game some objects are more useful than others: pick up a heart and you will get an extra life, pick up a key and it will tell

you where you the next exit is. Oh if only life were that simple.

NAUGHTY BUT NICE

Naughty Ones is straightforward platform game, however, as well as the usual bonus screens and general tearing through various levels, there are some nice extra touches. The expanding map is a useful feature, allowing you to go back to earlier screens and pick up any items you might have forgotten. The graphics are good too. My favourite part has to be the Crazy Clocks world, which has nice stripy sofas that you can bounce on to reach those high platforms.

JUST NAUGHTY

Sound however, is the one area where I could really fault *Naughty Ones*. The little ditty playing in background of Mad Mechanics world nearly drove me insane. Playing through a level, with what amounts to piped supermarket music in the background made me feel as if I was trapped in Tesco's.

The two-player option is actually

quite good, allowing a mate to join in the on the antics. The gameplay, however, is not very challenging. Once you've learned each baddie's modus operandi they become very easy to kill, and despite the constant oncoming fire, it becomes very easy to get through each level.

Nonetheless, *Naughty Ones* is a good platform game, one which will keep you happy and entertained for a while – if not for eternity. **CU**

INTERACTIVISION £25.99

A500 ✓ A500+ ✓ A600 ✓ A1200 ✓
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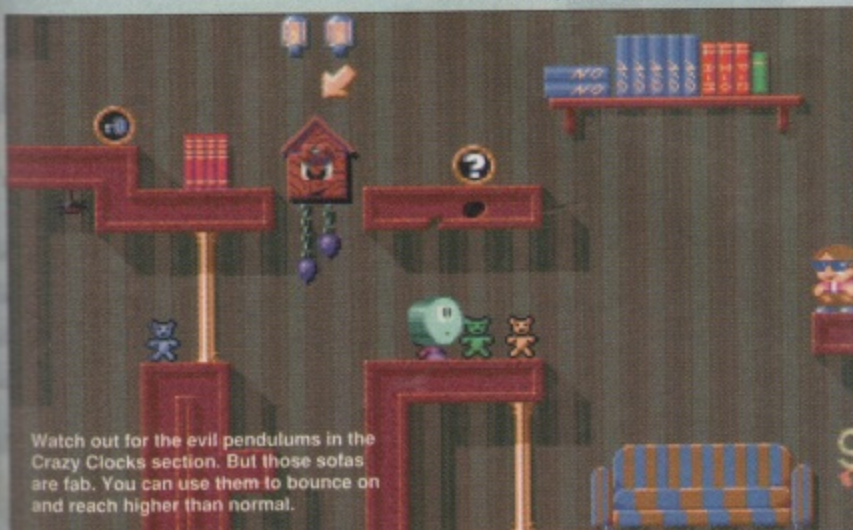
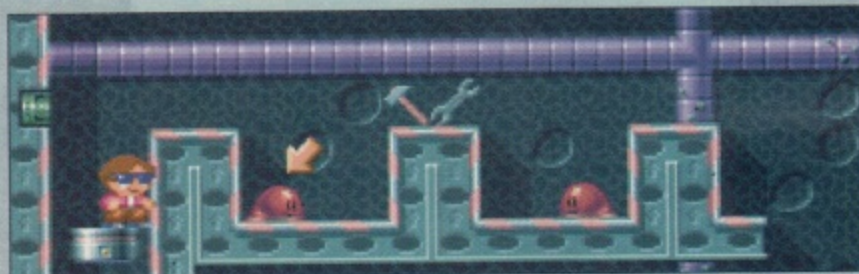
INTERACTIVISION, FULLING MILL BARN, FULLING MILL LANE, WELLWYN HERTS AL6 9NP. TEL:0438 840 004.

RELEASE DATE: OUT NOW
GENRE: PLATFORM
TEAM: MELON DEZIGN
CONTROLS: JOYSTICK
NUMBER OF DISKS: 1
NUMBER OF PLAYERS: 2
HARD DISK INSTALLABLE: YES
MEMORY: 1Mb

GRAPHICS ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦80%
SOUND ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦61%
LASTABILITY ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦80%
PLAYABILITY ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦85%

A good platform game.

OVERALL 80%



Watch out for the evil pendulums in the Crazy Clocks section. But those sofas are fab. You can use them to bounce on and reach higher than normal.

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL MASTERS 4

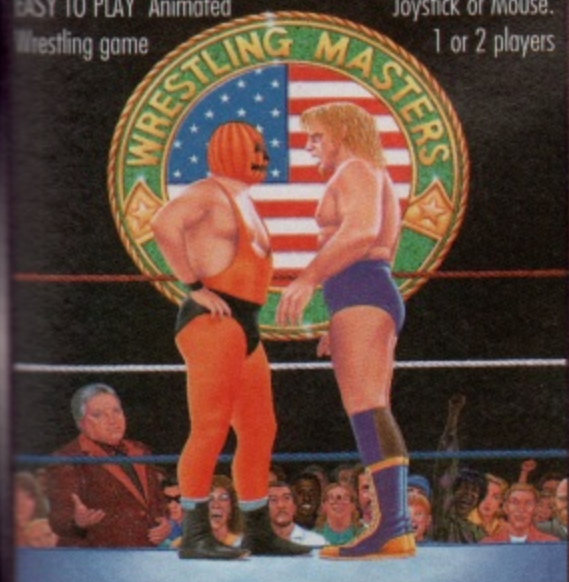
Simply the best Football management game for your computer. We have served thousands of satisfied customers during our 4 years of trading. Over 10,000 man hours (during 5 years) has been dedicated to the production of this constantly improving game. It is one of the most realistic and accurate representations of a professional football managers annual challenge to tactically outwit and conquer every opponent. Managers: 1 to 4 Human players, Ratings, Performance statistics, sack and offers. 3 Difficulty levels, Manager of the month and season awarded, Pools, Pick any team in any division to begin with. League & Cup: Premier 22 teams, Division 1, 2 & 3 have 24 teams, Play-offs, Tables. 7 Cup competitions with precise rules (2 legs, extra time, away goal rule, seeded draws, European Cup tables, 5 subs, non-domestic player restrictions etc.), Finalist route to glory. Games: Yearly fixture/previous list, Week fixtures/results, Results from previous meeting with opponent (goes back up to 6 seasons).

Players: Real life statistics reflecting the start of 93/94 season with real positions, height, age. Live transfer market, Contract & wage negotiations, Preferred foot (left/right/both), Loans, Injuries, Training, Special talents, Trainees, Goalkeepers (separate skill categories), Defenders, Midfielders, Attackers & Utility, Retirements, Foreign transfers, Unhappy players, Top 10 Hat shots. Team: Training, Tactics (15 different styles), Aggression, Formation allows specific player field settings (Left winger, Sweeper etc.). Club: Sponsorship, Ground improvements, View opponent, Finances. The Match: Real time scoreboard reporting goals & injuries yellow/red cards, Sound effects, Interventions permitted at any time to change tactics, formations and make subs. Physical graphical penalty participation (optional). Over 80 different referees. Other: Fast load/save, Printer access, 20 Options to set various game preferences, Instruction book, Easy to play, Technical support. Plus: Over 100 other meticulous refinements impossible to list here. Editor: Allows you to amend various items in saved games. £12 Extra. Scottish: Dedicated version details available upon request.

PLAY BY MAIL Service Now Available



EASY TO PLAY Animated Wrestling game Joystick or Mouse. 1 or 2 players



CRICKET MASTERS

This is a purely managerial cricket manager game that concentrates on strategy and includes plenty of relevant statistics. The game has been designed and developed by a true fan of the sport. It replicates everything that a real manager has to contend with and it's a totally unique production that anyone with an interest in Cricket should experience. A summary of the main features is shown below:

- AXA EQUITY & LAW 18 league county teams, 50 overs per game.
- 4 Cup competitions including Benson & Hedges, Nat West.*
- 20 different match umpires with accurate names and strictness.
- Accurate player details Surname, height and age.
- 27 different player attributes. Most skills have a direct impact on the effectiveness of each individuals actions during a simulated match.
- Easy player selection. All game text is clearly presented.
- Batting and bowling averages. Top batting and bowling tables.
- 3 Different training intensities to boost batting, bowling or fielding.
- Weather, pitch and light often make an impact on ground condition.

• Full match highlights let you watch the action ball by ball with full graphics and/or realistic sampled sound effects for significant events (Fours, Umpire decisions, etc.). Interventions are permitted at any time to change batting tactics or fielding placings.

- 3 Batting/Bowling classifications (Normal, Attack and Defend).
- Choice of 15 different field placings.
- Full scorecard results with best batting and bowling figures.
- Other staff (Physio, Groundkeeper, Scout) can be hired and fired.
- Annual league fixtures listing. Current week and last league results.
- View current cup competition draws and historic records.
- Real time transfer market. Player contract and wage negotiations.
- Sponsors, Printer access, Finances, Poor ground fines, Manager rating.
- 15 Options to alter game preferences, Load/Save game.
- Instruction book with plenty of examples.
- Plus many more fine details that we are unable to list here.



STABLE MASTERS V2

This game has been designed to be as close to real racing as possible. Five years of development by a clever racing expert has led to the second revision of this Flat Horse Racing Simulation. Up to 4 players can participate as Owner Trainers with the primary objective of becoming the top rated trainer, in respect of prize money won, at the end of each racing season (March to November). There are up to 35 other intelligently controlled computer trainers to compete against and compare your personal performance. To achieve this aim you must discover a potential champion and train them so that they become capable of competing well and winning any of the 47 big prize money races (Handicap and Group). eg. The Derby. To give you an idea of the tools provided in this game to assist you reaching your objective we have listed the main features below:

- 250 horses each with over 60 independent variables.
- 26 different race courses (2 all weather), real life characteristics mirroring the diversity of racecourses in the UK (descriptions provided).



- 20 Jockeys who vary in ability and booking fees, Orders & Feedback.
- Formbook and Win Summary Cards cover the previous 200 races.
- Animated race display or just the result. View Declaration List for races.
- Very informative report by Head stable lad. Tipsters. Bookmakers.
- Racecards similar to racing press. Real life. Handicaps & Race Types.
- Viruses, Injuries & Vets. Load/Save game. Many other items included.

Version 1 is available upon request (Simple training & betting) @ £15.

ORACLE

Open National Tipping Competition 1991: Organised by Racecall, regulated by the Tote, this program achieved joint second. This led to a serious approach from a well known national book maker. Rejected in favour of supporting the public. Winnings Statistics: 104 wins out of 166, as from 2/6 to 1/9/93. Formula: This program tells you exactly what to do. You are NOT permitted to amend our system unlike so many other similar programs. How confident can you be in something that invites amendments! Research & Development: Three years full time race analysis and experimentation to refine and test the prediction system. Inside Knowledge: Plenty of unique hints from contacts in the know. User Friendly: No racing knowledge required, easy to use, tutorial book. Restricted Sales: As soon as our programs predictions have a prolific impact on the betting odds we will stop accepting new buyers. Monthly Updates: Highly recommended option. If any update fails to break even we'll send the next one free of charge. From £25. Price Increase: Highly likely. Buy now before success forces increase.

World Cup Cricket Masters

A fantastic graphical and/or tactical representation of Cricket that has been completely written by a traditional fan. You can physically participate with batting and/or bowling or leave it to the computer to automatically handle. See full feature list below:-

- GAME OPTIONS**
- 1 Day limited overs or test.
 - White or coloured clothing.
 - Three Cricket grounds.
 - Load/Save game. Skill levels.
 - Computer/Human players.
- ANIMATED ACTION**
- Sound Commentary.
 - Umpire signals.
 - All the strokes cut, pull, drive, etc.
 - Appeals, dropped catches, run outs.
 - Bouncers, wides and no balls.
- STATISTICS**
- Scorecard & bowling analysis.
 - Weather and ground reports
 - Wagon Wheel
 - Manhattan Chart.
- PLAYER VARIETY**
- Rated on 8 adjustable factors.
 - Left and right handed players.
 - Range of batting types.
 - Editor to amend game stats.
 - Bowler types include seam, swing, change and both types of spin with 8 speed levels.



FRIENDLY CONTROLS

- Icon driven with point & click.
- Large 3D scrolling screen covering the entire playing area.
- Mouse controls bowler's line, length, direction field settings.
- Joystick control of batsman's attack level, strokes and running between wickets.

VARIABLE CONDITIONS

- Surface and pace of pitch
- Rain, bad light, cloud cover, temperature and humidity.



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COMPUTER

ST 512K S/S	ST 512K D/S	ST 1MB	AMIGA 1MB	P.C.

MAIL ORDERS

All the programs detailed in this advert are only available by direct mail.

DESCRIPTION	A G	PRICE	TOTAL
Professional Football Masters V4		24.95	
P.F.M. Editor V4		12.00	
Stable Masters V2		24.95	
Oracle Horse Tipster (RRP £99.95)		75.00	
Cricket Masters		24.95	
World Cup Cricket Masters		24.95	
Wrestling Masters		19.95	
CREDIT CARD NUMBER & EXPIRY	E & O. E.	GRAND TOTAL	

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Mark Patterson discovers that Orks do not, in fact, come from the Orkney islands... and dies horribly in the process.

DARKMERE

When I first saw *Darkmere*, I didn't think it was anything more than a

colourful version of the old Spectrum classic *Knightlore* from Ultimate. But after a few minutes I started to realise that there was actually far more depth to it. As well as plenty of wandering around battling orcs and other typical fantasy demons, there's also a good deal of puzzle solving.

KEEP TOLKIEN

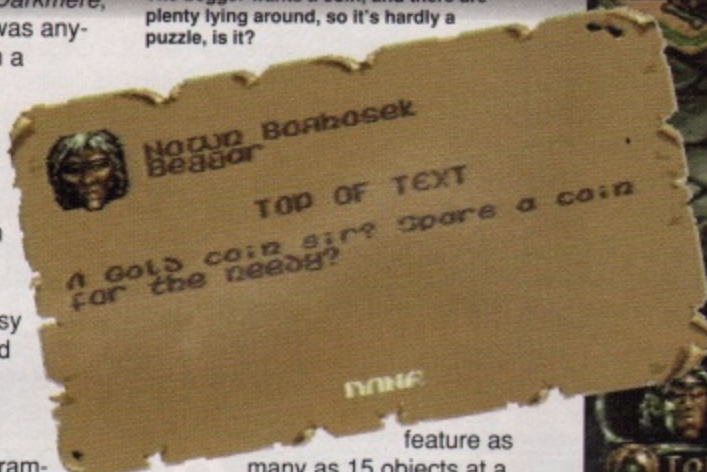
It looks as though the programmers might have taken some of their inspiration from JRR Tolkien books; your sword glows near orcs, for instance, which is exactly what Bilbo's sword, Sting, did in the *Hobbit*. Thankfully though, the plot definitely isn't straight out of *Lord Of The Rings*. Yes, the forces of evil are running riot. Yes, there are elves and, yes, you're looking for a magician to help you overcome them. However, when you begin the game you don't have any idea as to where you should be going and what you need to take with you.

OBJECTS EVERYWHERE

Darkmere promises lots but unfortunately doesn't deliver. Its biggest failing is its utterly linear puzzle system. Once you've found the right locations it's usually just a case of transporting an object between them or performing a specific task. There's very little challenge there. Still, when combined with the combat sequences and sheer number of locations to explore there's more than enough game in there to pose quite a challenge, even if it's not terribly exciting.

What does make *Darkmere* difficult is the awkward command interface. This interface is a series of menus which doesn't look very threatening until you try and get to grips with them. For instance, you call up the examine menu, which can

The beggar wants a coin, and there are plenty lying around, so it's hardly a puzzle, is it?



feature as many as 15 objects at a time. There's no way of telling which ones are important, so you just have to check through them individually, which is time consuming and very dull. Slowing the game down even further is the amount of disk-access time. When a location is being loaded it not only has to retrieve the graphics but also the character information.



Admittedly, the end result is a more involving game, but I'd have been able to suffer a few static characters if it meant less loading.

As they are, the characters don't have much to say. Depending on who you're talking to there are a number of topics you can inquire about. Most of the time you just get blank looks, or the same answers from the last half-dozen characters. But the only way to find things out is by asking everyone about

Food can be found almost everywhere in town. Eating replenishes your energy bar so keep on chomping.



everything, which seems to be the same principle that the objects are based on.

I also had a problem with the combat controls. To fight you have to hold down the fire button then

ORC AYE THE NOO

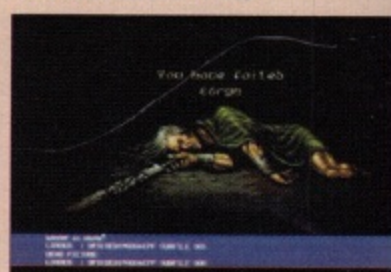
Orcs are the most numerous of your enemies. On their own they're not very dangerous but if you encounter a couple in a row they soon sap your energy.



The first indication that trouble is on its way is your sword, which absolutely hates anything evil and glows to warn you that something's coming.



In combat mode you're limited to two different attacks and one block. This is usually adequate, unless you get over-zealous and end up attacking when you should be defending...



...as you did here (tut, tut). You can take plenty of damage, but if you don't watch out you could end up getting caught short in combat (cut short, surely - Ed).



The tavern is a good place to pick up information, as long as you can find people who want to talk to you.

move it in a given direction to slash or block. So far so good. What tends to happen though is that the creature you're up against will start hitting you before you get into position. All right, so all's fair in love and war, but it's very hard getting yourself in a suitable position to fight back. You end up walking in circles while a flaming orc hacks chunks out of your torso.

IMPRESSIVE GRAPHICS

The one outstanding feature of *Darkmere*, and the main reason I persevered with it, is the graphics. They rate as some of the best I've seen on an Amiga adventure. Even on the A500 they're drawn in 32-colour mode and the detail and animation is just superb. In fact, it would seem as though that's where most of the effort has been concentrated. A map feature, for example, would have been very useful, because you're often directed to different streets without having a clue where they actually are.

Invariably this leads to lots of wandering around, rucks with orcs and frustrated banging on the joystick as you realise you've been going around in circles for 10 minutes. There are many better

adventures out there, although I can't think of one quite as nice looking. I hope Core persevere with *Darkmere's* engine and I'd certainly like to see the follow-up; as long as they sort out the problems. As it stands, *Darkmere* is an above average adventure, dogged by unwieldy combat and detail. **CU**

CORE DESIGN £29.99

A500	A500+	A600	A1200
A1500	A2000	A3000	A4000

CORE DESIGN, TRADEWINDS HOUSE,
69/71 ASHBOURNE ROAD, DERBY,
DE22 3FS. TEL: 0322 297797

RELEASE DATE:	APRIL
GENRE:	ARCADE/ADVENTURE
TEAM:	IN HOUSE
CONTROLS:	JOYSTICK
NUMBER OF DISKS:	5
NUMBER OF PLAYERS:	1
HARD DISK INSTALLABLE:	YES
MEMORY:	1Mb

GRAPHICS	♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦95%
SOUND	♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦89%
LASTABILITY	♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦84%
PLAYABILITY	♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦78%

Above average adventure – could have been better.

OVERALL 79%

when you **insist** on

Quality
&
CHOICE...

You need to...



Gremlin Graphics want to give his video recorder, complete with remote control and long play facility, to you. If you've any sense you'll enter this competition pronto.

PREMIER COMPETITION!

Okay, so what's a *Premier Manager 2* compo doing on the pages of this esteemed tome some seven months after we originally reviewed the game? Put quite simply, it's a cunning marketing ploy on behalf of **Gremlin Graphics** to raise coverage of their top footy game during the build-up to the World Cup. Don't get me wrong though, a marketing ploy it may be, but it's definitely not a cheap one. Oh no.

Premier Manager 2 is, without doubt, the best soccer manager sim available on the Amiga and if one or two real life managers took a crash course in guiding their teams to the top in *Premier Manager*'s championships then they might have ended up going to the USA. But don't worry, whether you're a top international manager (retired), or an ordinary Joe soap footy fanatic you won't have to

This screen might look boring to the uninitiated, but it'll warm the hearts of would be football managers the world over. Bless them.

stay up all night watching the real games live in the USA because **Gremlin** want to give you a video recorder. That way you can continue playing *Premier Manager 2* into the small hours of the morning instead of watching telly.

But, as they say in those multi-purpose kitchen utensil advertisements, that's not all. When you win the video recorder you'll also get the team of your choice on video, to enjoy now, and save for posterity and future generations. So when you're sending in your entry, make sure to tell us what your favourite soccer team is, too. Runners up prizes include five copies of *Premier Manager 2* and five **Gremlin** t-shirts.

To enter the draw for a Matsui video recorder and the team video of your choice, or one of the runners up prizes of *PM2* or a t-shirt, just answer the following questions:

1. Who has recently been made England Manager?
2. In *Premier Manager 2*, what league do you start in?
3. **Gremlin Graphics** is based in Sheffield. Which two Premier League teams come from Sheffield?

WEEK 1

WEEK 1

2100000

2100000

BATH CITY

BATH CITY

MONDAY

MONDAY

WEEK 1 OF 1993

WEEK 1 OF 1993

TEAM SELECTION

TEAM SELECTION

PLAYER NAME	HT	WT	PS	SH	CB	FT	INFO FOR PLAYER
GOAL	23	11	10	3	19	94	SHIRT 19
DEF	13	34	26	8	1	1	MOORE 3325 P.M
MID	11	11	11	11	11	11	3 YEAR CONTRACT
ATT	11	11	11	11	11	11	INSURE 0.00
GOAL	23	11	10	3	19	94	HANDLING 21
DEF	13	34	26	8	1	1	TACKLING 11
MID	11	11	11	11	11	11	PASSING 10
ATT	11	11	11	11	11	11	SHOOTING 10
GOAL	23	11	10	3	19	94	COMBINA 15
DEF	13	34	26	8	1	1	FITNESS 18
MID	11	11	11	11	11	11	AGILITY 10
ATT	11	11	11	11	11	11	MOBILE 10
GOAL	23	11	10	3	19	94	FOOT 1 LEFT
DEF	13	34	26	8	1	1	PLAYER 0
MID	11	11	11	11	11	11	SCORED 0
ATT	11	11	11	11	11	11	GOALKEEPER 0
GOAL	23	11	10	3	19	94	NOT 0
DEF	13	34	26	8	1	1	TRAINING
MID	11	11	11	11	11	11	MORE
ATT	11	11	11	11	11	11	LOH

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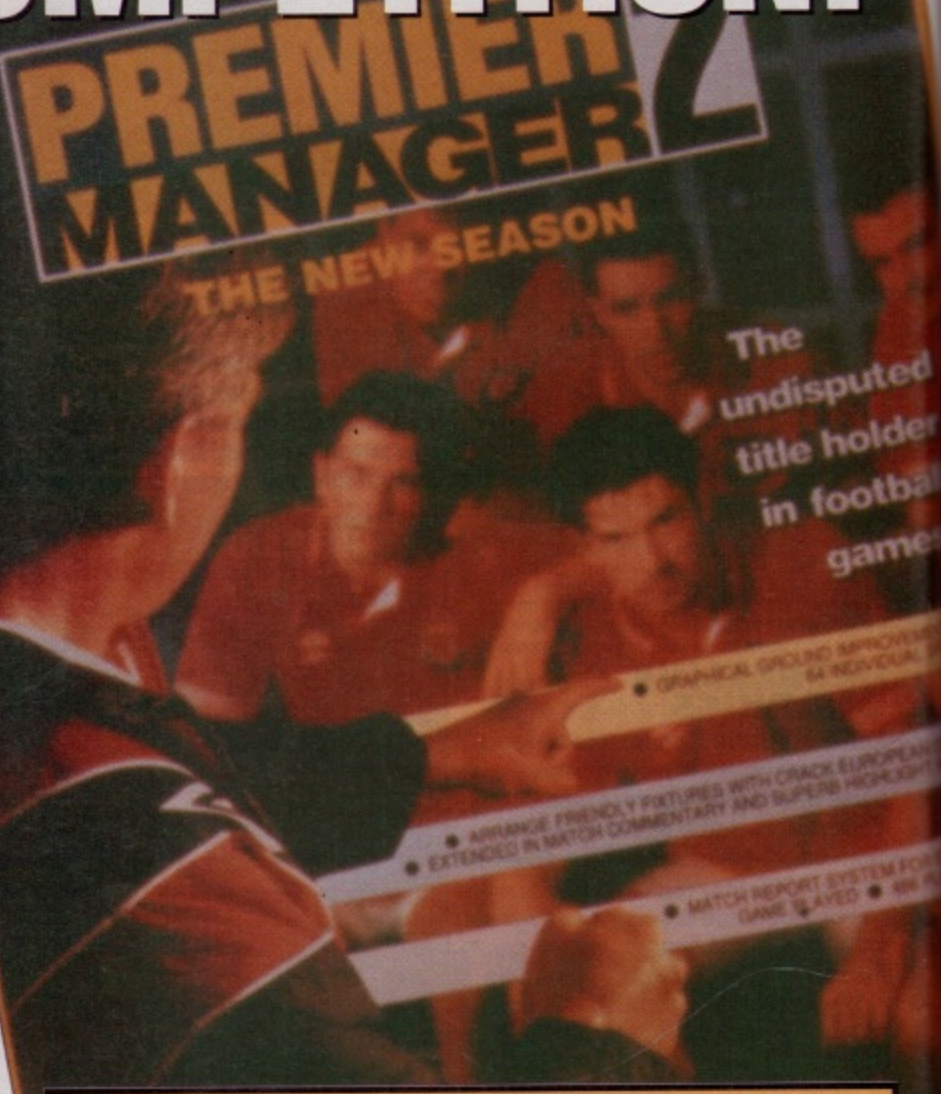
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TEAM RATING: GOOD A



RULES

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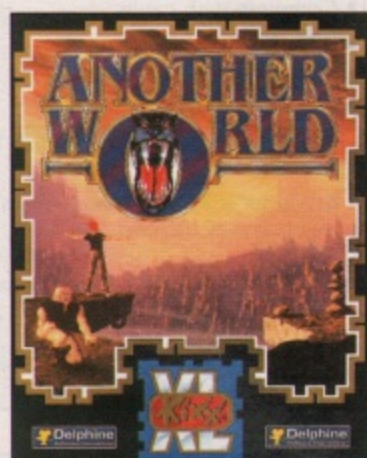
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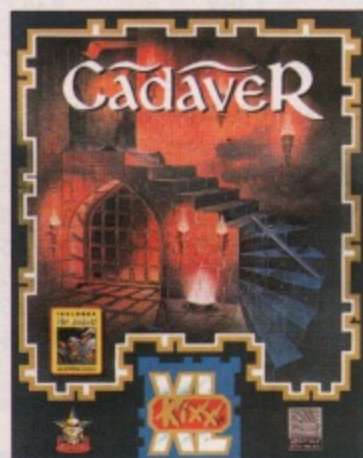
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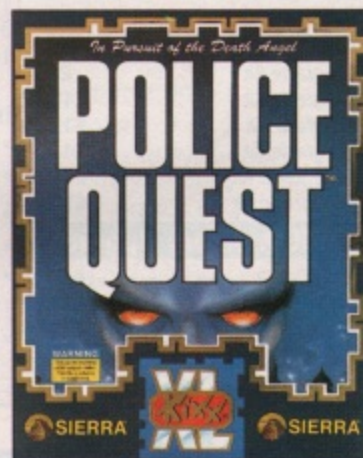
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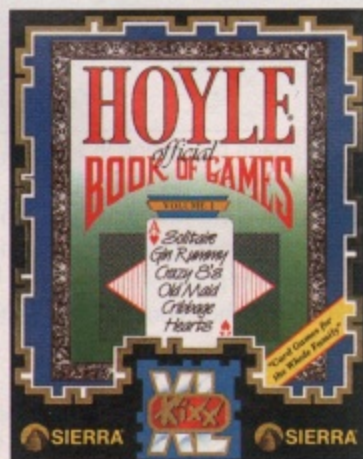
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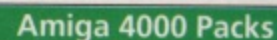
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-
- A photograph of the Apple II computer system. The main computer unit is a light-colored, rectangular box with a floppy disk drive on the front. In front of it is a keyboard with light-colored keys and a numeric keypad. To the right of the keyboard is a white mouse with a cord. Several software manuals are scattered in front of the computer, including one titled "Apple II" and another titled "A-Ref". The background is a solid blue color.

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A photograph of a vintage Apple II computer system. It includes a beige CRT monitor with a dark screen, a matching beige keyboard, and a small beige external floppy disk drive. The components are arranged on a light-colored surface against a blue background.

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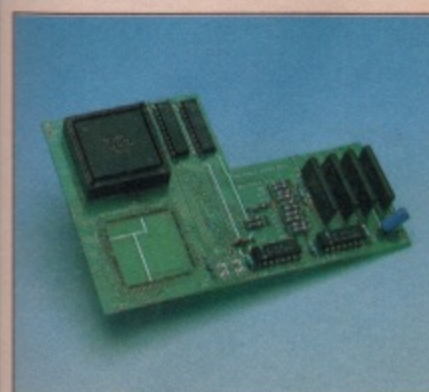
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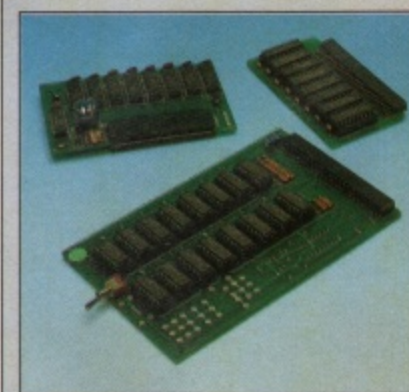
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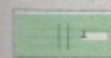
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Beneath the swampling's house lies the fantasy island where the frogsbane plant grows. Take the plant to the old druid and he'll reward you with a much needed potion.



SIMON

THE SORCERER *SOLUTION*

PART
2

Andy Mitchell is back with the final

instalment of *Simon the Sorcerer*.

Skip merrily to the entrance of the diamond cave, then take the path around the side to where you'll find a locked door. This is the entrance to the nasty Goblin's Cave, but unfortunately it's locked. Never mind, if you look under a nearby stone you'll find a shopping list. Return to the village and hand over the Goblin's shopping list, then search the shelves until you find a hammer and a bottle of white spirit. Don't drink the white spirit, it hasn't been chilled and you know how horrible warm, white spirit is. While you are patiently waiting for the shopkeeper to get the Goblin's shopping ready you might as well get on with some other good deed, so head for the icy mountains.

Go past the frozen barbarian and find the chilled wizard. In the centre of this screen you should whip out your metal detector and give it a whirl. Within moments you'll get the signal that you are standing on a piece of mithril ore, but without a spade to dig it up you've still got problems. Not to worry, back in the forest there is a fossil-hunter with a spade who might come and dig if we persuade him that there are some fossils around here. Go further up the mountain and here you'll find the sleeping giant. At this point you may either chuck a bucket of cold water from the witch's well over him, or

give a blast on the sousaphone. Either method will make the giant twitch and knock over the tree with his arm. Using the fallen tree you can now cross the gorge. Keep a sharp eye on the ground and you'll find yet another rock which can be picked up. Examine this stone and you'll see

Boulder') will bring you to a hole which is directly above the dragon's hoard of gold. Fix the magnet to the rope, then use this as a fishing rod to steal the gold from below. (Yes, I know that gold isn't magnetic, but the gold doesn't seem to know that, so don't say anything.) Do this twice to

wonderful thing, but this one isn't very smart. One thing it does know, however, is the magic word which will help you defeat the wicked witch, and will tell you what it is if you use the white spirit to remove the mark on its trunk.

Back to the village and slip the fossil stone under the blacksmith's hammer to reveal the fossil. Rush to the paleontologist and use the stone to move his digging activities into the mountains.

By this time there will be a box outside the village shop, so open it and hide inside. In the twinkling of an eye you'll end up locked inside the Goblin's storeroom. Search the boxes and you'll find the spellbook, inside which you'll find a loose piece of paper. On the floor you'll find a rat bone. Slip the paper under the locked door, then use the bone to push the key out of the other side of the lock and onto the paper. By retrieving the paper you'll get the key. Unlock the door, and with the power of the ring to make you invisible, pick up the bucket and walk down the stairs. Remove the ring and talk to the Druid. Pick up the mints and the firebrand – to enable the Druid to escape you'll need to use the bucket with the Druid, and then use the firebrand with the Druid.

Finally, hide inside the iron maiden to escape from the evil



The fabled staff is to be found in the grip of a frightening mummy. A quick tug on his, ahem, loose bandage will reduce all of your problems to a pile of dust.

traces of a fossil hidden in its depths.

The entrance to the dragon's cave is next on our itinerary, so gather your courage and creep inside. Use the cough medicine on the dragon, then the fire extinguisher can be grabbed. Take it and leave. Outside you can use the hook on the boulder at the top of the cave entrance. Climbing up the rope, (using 'Walk to

get lots of gold.

A little further up the trail you'll come to a row of climbing pegs. Typically, some rotter has stolen one of the pegs, blocking your route up the rock face. However you can jump from ledge to ledge to get to the other side of this screen, and here you'll find a talking tree. You may think that a talking tree is a simply



Goblins. The Druid will return and give you a hacksaw which will enable you to escape. Now it's time to return to the icy wastes and find the mithril that's lying amidst the rubble which our fossil-fiend has dug up. Take this to the blacksmith and have it bashed into an axehead which can be given to the woodcutter. As the woodcutter didn't think to give you a reward I think it's only fair that we reward ourselves, so enter the house and pick up the climbing pin from the table. Use the fire extinguisher on his fire and then move the hook in the fireplace and voila – a secret elevator. From the store below, you can select the woodworm's favourite snack and take this to the stump in the forest. Now return to the repulser tower and use the woodworm on the floorboards.

With the aid of the ladder you can get down to the Tomb of the Mummy. From the moment you open the Mummy's coffin you have only a split second to find the loose piece of bandage and move it. Your nasty foe will disappear in a crumbling heap, allowing you to grab the magical staff. Take the staff to the wizards in the tavern who will, for a small fee, raise you to wizard status and give you a wizard's starter pack.

The Druid has returned home, but unfortunately he is still a frog. Resist the temptation to kiss him, but instead go to the jetty beneath the swampland's house and repair the loose board with the hammer and nail. The frogsbane you seek is on top of the Skull. Armed with the flowers you may now return to the Druid and be rewarded with a shrinking potion.

Now we come to the scary bit. Head for the witch's cottage and then save the game. Armed with the magic word, enter the cottage. The witch will return and challenge you to a duel. It may take you a little while to figure out how to play her game of magical 'Scissors and Stone', but eventually you will use the word to turn yourself into a mouse and escape with the broomstick via the mouse-hole.

There is only one way to get past this slimy character and that is to get really tough. Threaten his kids and watch him hopit.

It's time to leave the village and head once more into the mountains. Using the climbing pin you will climb to new heights and here you must eat the peppermints to deal with the evil snowman. The witch's broom will fly you across the gap to the door of

matchstick on the lily pad to make a boat. Select the 'walk to' command to move the boat across the water and pick up some seeds. These seeds may now be used on the stone to produce an oil which is ideal for lubricating the rusty tap.



With the demons safely out of the way, your path is now clear to pop inside the teleporter and zap yourself off to the Fiery Pits.



There can be few things more dangerous than a dragon with a cough. Before you try and grab the fire-extinguisher, make sure you have something to soothe the dragon's throat or you'll be fried to a crisp.

the dark castle, and the Druid's potion will cut you down to a size which lets you crawl under the door.

From the garden you can pick up a leaf, a stone, and a matchstick from inside the bucket. Pick up the lily pad, then use the leaf and the



The evil wizard perishes beneath the red-hot lava and the kingdom is saved once again. Perhaps now we can all get some sleep at last, and stop driving ourselves crazy with this wacky game!

Finally, use the hair of the dog to open the tap. At the other side of the pond there is a tadpole in the water which can be used to threaten that nasty frog who bars your way. Once that little problem has 'hopped it' you can pick and eat the magical

mushrooms. They must be the ones which our old friend Alice dropped, because when you eat them you return to your old self.

Before entering the nearby door, pick up the loose branch – you'll need it to defeat the chest inside. Grab a spear and shield and then go downstairs. Use the spear on the skull, pick it up. Collect the locked chest. Move the lever, put the locked chest on the block, move the lever again to crush the chest and pick up the candles.

Climb to the middle level of the tower and pick up the wand, book, pouch and sock. Open the book, use the pouch with the sock. Find the mouse-hole at the edge of the stairs, use the pouch on the hole to catch a mouse. Climb upstairs and use the chemicals on the shield to turn it into a mirror. Use the shield on the hook in the middle of the screen.

It's back downstairs to talk to the mirror and view the lab upstairs. Return to the top level and read the book on the shelf at the rear of the room. Talk to the Demons and perform the magic rite. Finally, use the teleport to transport you to the fiery pits.

On your arrival at the fiery pits you can pick up a pebble, a Y-shaped piece of wood, and collect some brochures from the assistant. Look at the brochures to find the rubber band, which you can use with the wood to make a catapult. Fire the pebble to set off the alarm bell. Grab some matches from the counter and head for the pits.

A quick flash of the magic wand will 'rock' Sordid the wizard and he'll end up quite 'stoney-faced', giving you time to re-light the pit. Throw the wand into the pit then make a dash for the doorway before Sordid is able to return and send a lightning bolt up your trouser leg. Arm yourself with the bucket of slippery floor wax from outside the door and return to face Sordid in the final conflict. Use the floor wax on the wizard and watch him slip into the fiery flames.

Don't think that's the end of the saga. Adventuresoft is beavering away on the next instalment of this great game. Simon will be back! **CU**



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BUDGET

It must be... it is! It's CU AMIGA's pop-tastic, fantastic guide to value for money games. Mark Patterson finds his pockets empty, as usual.



POLICE QUEST

KIXX PRICE: £16.99

If American TV is to be believed, police work involves having a partner you don't want, investigating the occasional corrupt fellow officer and shooting at people with your .38 Detective's special.

Unfortunately, as all good *The Bill* fans know, the real world isn't nearly as glamorous. It involves scooping drunks out of gutters and doing bags of paper-work. *Police Quest* is a compromise between the two scenarios, involving plenty of realistic donkey-work and a serial killer called Death Angel exacting his own form of population control.

As an officer of the Lytton Police Department, it's your job to keep the streets safe for law-abiding citizens. You do get to wave your daystick at street punks – who usually give up and go away, but you're prohibited from re-enacting Magnum Force and going on a one-man vigilante crusade, which, I must admit, was the first thing I tried.

The manual covers all the essentials of police work, from when to draw your gun to how to play five-card draw poker with the lads after work. But once you've learned the basics, such as proper arrest procedures you can do away with the manual and really get down to crime fighting.

Once 'realistic 3D graphics' now look very jaded, with psychedelic colour schemes providing tell-tale signs that this game's been converted from the EGA PC version. Still they were good for the time and don't detract from the action. *Police Quest* is a full-blown classic which will keep you playing right to the very end.

Mark Patterson

88%

SPACE QUEST 2

KIXX PRICE: £16.99

This is one of the stalwart titles which helped Sierra hit the big time. It stars Roger Wilco, a hopeless space engineer who spends most of his working life scrubbing the outside of a space station. When he's not battling aliens or saving the universe that is.

In fact, it's his previous universe-saving adventure that's landed him in hot water this time. His arch-enemy Sludge Vohaul, defeated bad guy from the first game, has returned with the express aim of killing Roger and destroying his home-world by unleashing thousands of genetically engineered insurance



HOYLE OFFICIAL BOOK OF GAMES VOLUMES I+II

KIXX PRICE: £16.99 EACH

Card games aren't everybody's idea of entertainment at the best of times – even less so when they don't actually feature real cards but come on a disk instead.

I had certain reservations about this game before I'd even taken it out of the box. You

can't blame me though. It's a fair whack of cash to pay out when you compare it to a 50p pack of cards from the local Newsy. However, that was before I discovered the tutorial mode.

Rather than buying these games to play competitive cards, it's a much better idea using them to learn how to play properly against real people. If you're constantly getting trounced by friends and end up handing cash over all the time, a few hours on this game will help you turn things around.

Over the two volumes you can learn the finer arts of various solitaire games, cribbage, crazy 8's and plenty of games you've probably never heard of. Considering this isn't what you'd call a zappy licence, the programmers have gone to great lengths to dress it up too.

There are plenty of opponents to go up against, different card decks to choose from and set-up options for almost every aspect of the game; from dealing speed to how fast you want your opponent's cameo to animate. Unless



you're a card addict with a passion for gin rummy, there's a limited amount of fun you can have with this. But for giving your mates a shock by suddenly becoming audaciously good at cards, it's priceless.

Mark Patterson

74%

salesmen on it. Despite the *Red Dwarf* premise, and the occasionally too-American humour, *Space Quest 2* is probably the best game in the series. Some of the puzzles are a little obscure though, such as setting fire to a bog-roll to set off fire sprinklers in order to short circuit guard robots.

While I still prefer the modern LucasArts adventures such as *Indiana Jones* and *Day Of The Tentacle*, *Space Quest 2* has a character all of its own. Although there aren't any major additions to the style of the plot, other than finding yourself lost at every intersection,

it's still diverting enough to hold your attention for quite a while. It's not a bad price for a reasonable product, but I would have been happier had it been a few quid cheaper. Recommended though.

80%

>>



KINGS QUEST II: ROMANCING THE THRONE

Kixx £16.99

Let's get one thing straight, I am not a fan of headlines with puns in them. So, this game's title doesn't strike me as being very funny.

Having said that *Kings Quest II: Romancing the Throne* is actually an okay game. Its plot continues where the first instalment left off. You, King Graham, must provide an heir to the throne, but being a picky bleeder you don't like any of the several thousand nubile young women in the kingdom. Oh no, the one you want is locked up in a tower, guarded by foul creatures from the dark side.

Of course, if it was only as easy as just rescuing her. On your travels you also have to collect as many bits of jewellery as possible in order to buy her affection—which sounds a little suspicious to me. And, oh yes, did I mention Hagatha, the girl's evil guardian, a wicked, scrawny old witch with a vicious temper who tries to hamper your efforts at every possible moment.

The dwarfs also make things rather difficult, while the other inhabitants of the land are like something out of a dodgy American sitcom. However, there's a certain charm to the game, which comes mainly from its decent plot structure and balanced gameplay. It's not quite as good as *Police Quest*, but it's good value for money nonetheless.

Mark Patterson

LEISURE SUIT LARRY II

Kixx £16.99

If you're a nineties man then this is the time to turn the page and go read something nice and technical. However, if you're the sort of birds 'n' booze guy who is quite at home in darkened clubs where you don't mind not being able to see the face of the person you're talking too, this could be your game. It's based on the exploits of Larry Laffer, a man without a woman who's on a mission to plight his trough with the first bit of skirt he finds.

It uses the same point and click interface that now graces all of Sierra's games, although it also features a text-entry system which unfortunately proves a bit awkward at times owing its limited vocabulary. There's also not as much to do as in later Sierra adventures, which is a bit off-putting, especially if you've played any of the more up to date games in this series. Some of the puzzles do prove to be quite taxing, but the majority deal with subjects such as working out how to get a certain girl back to your room while keeping in with her equally tasty mates, in the hope of picking one of them up later.

This may have been the kind of humour which made the proto-computer censorship lobby wince in the eighties, but nowadays it struggles to even hit 'saucy' on the smutt-ometer.

As an adventure *Leisure Suit Larry II* more than passable though, with plenty of puzzles, even if most of them are easy to solve. This game is a good introduction to the adventure genre, but hardened players will go through this as fast as a man with a sweet tooth goes through a pile of tasty, yummy doughnuts.

Mark Patterson

84%

82%

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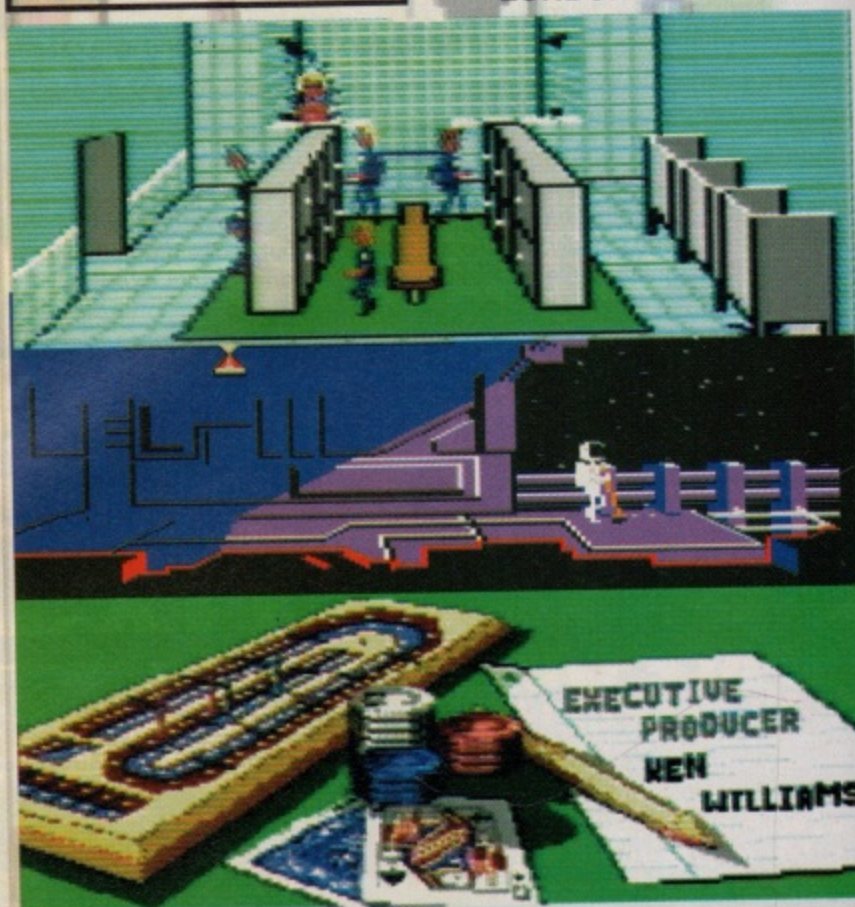
Police Quest 1	Kings Quest 4
Police Quest 2	Kings Quest 5
Police Quest 3	Leisure Suit Larry 1
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Space Quest 1	Hoyles Book Of Games 3
Space Quest 2	
Space Quest 3	
Space Quest 4	
Kings Quest 1	
Kings Quest 2	
Kings Quest 3	

KIXX were pleased as punch when they picked up the Sierra licences a couple of months ago, though not as pleased as you lot when you found out you could get hold of 20 Sierra titles for under £17 each! To celebrate this momentous occasion in budget gaming history, KIXX have agreed to give five lucky CU AMIGA readers the chance to never leave their homes again. In other words, five sets of all 20 Sierra games are up for grabs. So, whether you fancy yourself as a policeman, a space adventurer, a dashing knight or an irresistible hunk, you'll find the right game for you here.

So how do I win one of these fabulous prizes, you want to know. Easy, just answer this very simple question: **What is Leisure Suit Larry's surname?**

Jot that down on the back of an envelope, add your name and address, and then pop the lot off to:

**"I HOPE I'VE GOT ROOM FOR THEM",
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RULES

1. Closing date for all entries is 30th April 1994.
2. The editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
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VAMP

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“Hello darlings, did you miss me? I certainly missed you. I'm getting very bored with death lately. I used to be content popping down the village for a quick bite around midnight, then drifting around the castle till dawn, but after a couple of hundred years things do tend to become a drag. What I need is a long-term relationship with someone who can keep me amused. Of course being the way I am, I do have rather unusual requirements. What I really need is a man who can stay up all night. Any offers?”

GOBLIINS II

In *Gobliins II*, I can't get past the bird-cage to get to the thumb tacks. I've got the pepper, salt, stool, kindelexir and a pair of gloves. Please can you help me.

Ryan Green, Kent.

*L*ift the big pot cover with Fingus. While Fingus is holding the cover, Winkle can pour salt onto the little guy inside. Get Winkle to take the file in the pots. Get one bumbling idiot to hold the left rope, and the other to hold the right. Then hoist Winkle up onto the shelf where he can then use the file to break the chain.

LEGEND OF KYRANDIA

Like you, I like to get my teeth into things, but I am having problems with *Legend of Kyrandia*. I was in the forest beside the floating chalice, and when I used my powers the chalice descended to the ground, only to be nicked by some pip-squeek.

I have discovered three potions (blue, yellow and red). I have bottles of salt water, mineral water and fresh water. I also have a silver statuette of a unicorn. I think I need a potion to shrink myself down to the size where I can enter the little door in the tree. Is this correct?

George Pope, London.

*Y*ou need my help to make you shrink? Well that's a new one for me. You'll find that what you need is a purple potion. In the woods beyond Zanthia you can find the Crystals of Alchemy. These crystals will help you mix the potions which you already have to make yet more. (e.g. a blue potion mixed with a red potion will make a purple one.) Yellow and blue make green, Red and yellow makes orange.

INDIANA JONES AND THE LAST CRUSADE

In *Indiana Jones*, I can get into the caverns below the library in Venice, but I can't get past the pool.

Pat McAree, Ireland.

*T*o drain the pool you'll need to find the plug in the ceiling just above the rock bridge. Insert the hook which comes from the skeleton's hand then use the whip to pull out the plug.

Of course you are now going to tell me that you don't know what I'm talking about because you haven't found the rock bridge. That's because you haven't been to the cafe in the piazza and got the wine bottle off the table. A wine expert like yourself will recognise that the bottle contains horrible plonk, so you'll have no trouble convincing the diners to let you take it away.

You can fill the bottle with water, and use that to loosen the mud which is sticking the flaming torch to the wall. Pull the torch, then brace yourself.

I would also like to mention that when a man is drunk, he is only half as strong as he thinks he is. Fill the trophy with beer from the kitchen to solve your problem.

OPERATION STEALTH

I've been stuck for nearly four months at the bottom of the ocean, tied to a rock with a girl that I don't even know! I had just met the girl in a hotel room when a bunch of bandits burst in, grabbed us, and threw us both in the ocean. Of course, you know I'm talking about *Operation Stealth*, so please help me.

I would also like to ask what is the best thing that a male can give to female that will keep her happy and satisfied?

Yaser Hamad, Kuwait.



Legend of Kyrandia.

You sure know how to show a girl a good time. My first date was a disaster, but at least I didn't end up getting drowned. The trick in this situation is to ensure that you have taken an inflatable bracelet with you on the date. If you changed all of your dollars into the local money at the bank, (you'll have to do the operation twice to change it all) then you will have enough to buy an inflatable bracelet from the salesman on the beach. Just before you are thrown into the sea, operate the bracelet. Once you are in the water operate the bracelet again to loosen your bonds. Swim towards the girl and operate on her. Ooh it's like when the Count and I play Doctors and Nurses.

As for your last question, there are a number of large mechanical devices which make an impression on most women. One of which is a Mercedes-Benz.

CURSE OF ENCHANTIA

I am stuck in the Ice World, in the Curse of Enchantia. After going through Mister Ben's clothes shop, I got the snowballs and threw them at the snow monster, but I can't find anything else to help me get past this point. Also, the man in the pub keeps throwing me out.

Chris Carr, Dunstable.



Curse of Enchantia.

When you first enter the Ice World you'll find a plank which you can pick up. Move to the next screen and throw the plank. You'll now be able to pick up a fish.

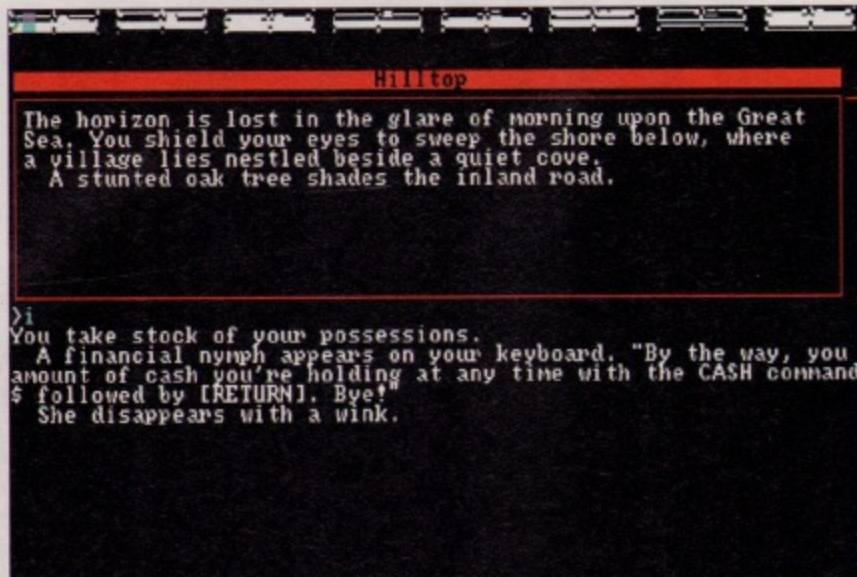
Go down a screen and there is a deodourant which you can take. I recommend you wear the deodourant because that fish makes you smell disgusting. You can give the fish to an Eskimo, and he'll give you something!

Don't worry about being thrown out of pubs, it used to happen to me all of the time. Perhaps you should stop taking off all your clothes after you've had a few drinks - it works, believe me.

BEYOND ZORK

My little problem is with Beyond Zork, please Vamp, can you help me? In the forest, (where the Cruel Puppet lives) I have come across a rock with an inscription on it... 'Never ahead, but ever behind, flying swiftly past etc...' I'm sure the answer to this riddle is 'Time', yet I cannot see what I have to do. Also, what use is the old sailor?

Jeremy Drake, Southport.



Beyond Zork.

What use is an old sailor! Shame on you. And you with a name like Drake. I never met Sir Francis, but his father was a saucy old devil. I'll have you know that some of my happiest memories concern old sailors. And don't you believe what they say about standing up in a hammock... It can be done; providing you're determined - and you've got a good sense of humour.

Not only are you wrong about the old sailors, you are also wrong about the answer to the riddle. Something which is always behind you, (apart from your bum) is your 'youth'. Happily I'll always look just as gorgeous as I do now.

KINGS QUEST IV

This game is driving me mad. I'm stuck on a beach because I can't find the whale which is supposed to eat me. Whenever I go into the water I keep getting eaten by a shark. I have collected the peacock feather, gold ball, small crown, board, fishing pole, silver flute, Cupid's bow, shovel and a dead fish. Please help. I have spent weeks swimming from different parts of the beach and from different parts of Ginesta's Island with no success. I am beginning to believe that they have forgotten to add the whale on this disk.

Stephens, Pershore.

Don't be silly, how can someone 'forget' a whale? Just when the whale will turn up is a random event, but maybe the cause of your trouble is that you don't appear to have done everything on the mainland yet. Take the gold ball to the pond near where you found it, and throw it in the water. Finally, let me give you a further hint by telling you what my mother told me. "A girl needs to kiss a lot of frogs before she finally meets her prince."

BLACK CRYPT

As I am currently out of work and cannot afford to pay some saucy, fast cat to encase me from head to toe in rubber and beat me with a toaster, I decided to invest in a copy of Black Crypt to give me a dungeon fix. After several hours sweating over

a hot keyboard I seem to have ground to a painful halt. The level that seems to be giving me so much trouble is level 10. I have completed everything on this level up until the rather nasty Glyph of Death situated at grid reference 9, 13, 10 and labelled 18 in the clue book. I have tried using both scrolls and spells, remove glyph, dispel magic, remove trap, put-the-kettle-on-and-have-a-lie-down-and-think-about-it spell, but nothing seems to work.

No matter what I do I can't get past the little blighter, and any attempt leaves my characters charred, singed and ashen-faced. Not to mention dead.

Please help me, I am way past my wit's end and starting on someone else's.

Richard Scratcher, Leigh-on-Sea.

Your sad situation reminds me of a King I once knew. That poor dear was shipwrecked on a desert island with his jester. Within a month, he too was at his wit's end. Ah, it's a hard life being so very funny.

I have a nasty suspicion that you have fallen foul of the same problem which snookered me. The glyphs which bar your way in this game are of different

Well the clock on the wall tells me that dawn will be here soon, and it's time I was tucked up safely in the family vault. Final thought, 'To err is human - but it feels divine.' Write down your little problem and send it in a plain envelope to:-

'Dear Vampyra'
CU Amiga, Priory Court,
30-32 Farringdon Lane,
London EC1R 3AU



strengths and you must use the correct solution for each one. If you use a powerful 'remove glyph' scroll to destroy a weak glyph, instead of using a weak 'remove glyph' spell, it will certainly work, but it leaves you without the powerful scroll which you must have. I fell into exactly the same trap and did not have an old save game which I could use to retrieve the situation. As far as I know, unless you have a save game where you still possess the powerful scroll, you're in trouble!

There is no way out of this problem except to restart the game. My only words of consolation are, if you do restart you'll be amazed how quickly you will get back to where you are now. Most of your time was spent wondering how to solve each little problem. When you replay it again, you'll cut through each level very quickly.



Black Crypt.

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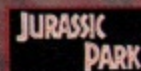
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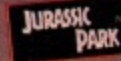
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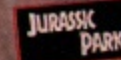
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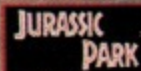
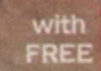
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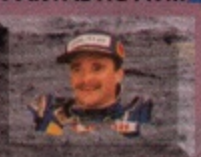
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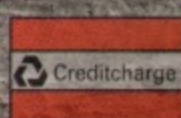
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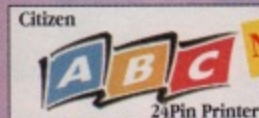
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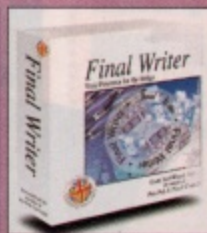
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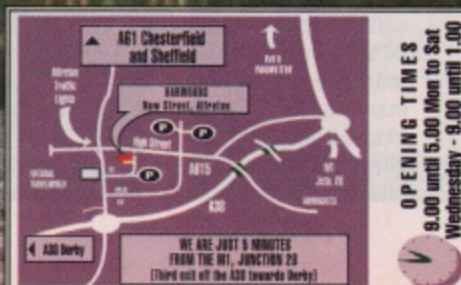
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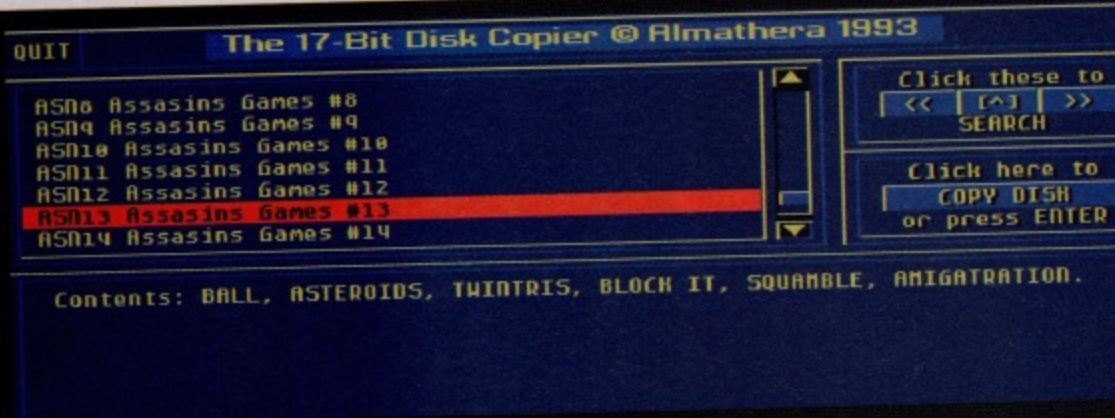
GET SERIOUS

The best technical section this side of Pluto, this is CU AMIGA's monthly guide to what's seriously hot on the Amiga scene. You want the low-down? Then join the Get Serious hoe-down!

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The CU AMIGA top rated accolade for non-games products scoring over 90%. They will definitely be worth the money and are likely to act as a benchmark for future releases.



All three CD-ROMs in the 17 Bit Collection can be accessed from this front panel, which makes finding that particular disk rather easy.

17 BIT II - THE COLLECTION CD-ROM

One of the better known purveyors of Amiga Public Domain has been 17 Bit Software, a company with enough foresight to place most of its collection on a set of two CD-ROMs last year. Amiga users lucky enough to have access to a CD-ROM drive could buy these disks and instantly gain possession of over 1700 floppy disks worth of software, for the bargain price of £40. Now the library has grown enough to merit a new disk, and so *17 BIT II - The Collection* is here.

The CD is compiled from disks 2302 to 2800 from 17 Bit's library. As this doesn't quite fill the entire disc, you'll also find the *Assassins Games* Disks 1 to 140, which just happen to feature two of a certain CU AMIGA writer's programs (blush), and dozens of slightly more obscure collections which between them offer almost every Public Domain program you could ever need.

As per usual, judging a collection is difficult (do you look at each PD program in turn, score it out of 100 and then average the results?) but this time there are certain aspects of the collection I don't like. For starters, the use of the DMS archiver really gets up my nose. The *Disk Masher* program works by reading each track of a disk and putting it all into one file, usually with a name ending with .DMS. Yes, it's nice and convenient to pack each disk into a single file. Yes, it's clever to have each PD disk re-created onto a floppy disk. No, I don't like it. I use a CD-ROM drive connected to an A4000 to access CD-ROMS, and if I want to use a particular file on the disk it means waiting while an entire floppy is processed. One of the reasons I have a CD-ROM drive is to get away from a reliance on floppies, and I much prefer the approach of the *Walnut Creek Aminet* CD-ROM, which uses LHA to compress files individually and sort them into various categories.

Unfortunately, when it comes to demo programs, DMS is the only solution, as every single track on the disk - bootblocks especially - must be included in the archive. Don't worry though, you'll still spend more time using the files than you will waiting for them to un-DMS, and to be honest there probably isn't a better way of storing the files.

The other floppy collections on the CD (ARUG, NZ and AMIGAN) are stored in an uncompressed form, which makes life easier, and when left to auto boot in a CDTV or CD32, a special disk selection front panel appears. This panel is quite handy and scrolls a list of all the files on the disk. In fact, you also get a list of the files on the previous disks in the 17 Bit Collection. If you select a disk from one of these you are prompted for the relevant CD. It's a nice touch, and I can see queues forming in Amiga clubs across the land as members wait in line to get their chosen PD from a CDTV acting as a vending machine or jukebox. However, for some reason I had a great deal of hassle with the front panel, especially using the CDTV remote control. The button seems to have a random effect on the display, ranging from the irritating to the useless, and I quickly started using *Parinet* to access files from another Amiga instead.

When it comes down to it though, no matter which way you decide to access the files, you'll still have many hundreds of megabytes of Amiga software to look through. An essential resource for all Amiga owners.

Available from: 17 Bit Software, 1st Floor Offices, 2/8 Market Street, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 1DH. Tel: 0924 366982. Price £19.99 plus 75p P&P.

82%



SMARTY PAINTS

KIDS PAINT

These kiddie paint packages seem to be getting quite popular recently. The idea is that your kids can have all the fun of drawing multi-colour pictures and patterns, without having to get to grips with technical programs such as *Deluxe Paint*. *Smarty Paints* has evolved from a similar program called *Borealis Junior*, but has since undergone a re-write and gained a load of new features.

All the drawing functions are accessed from a big icon panel. Instead of using obscure little pictures, the buttons are all clearly marked with a text description of their function. This makes it a lot more accessible from the start, so long as the user can read of course.

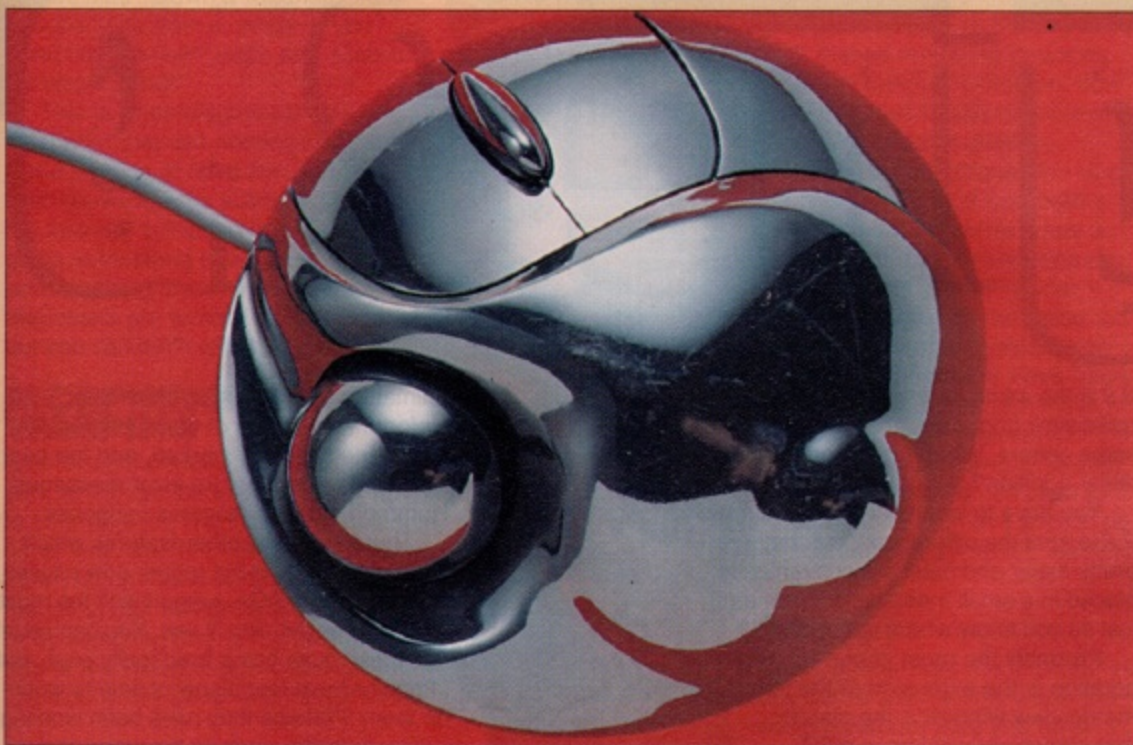
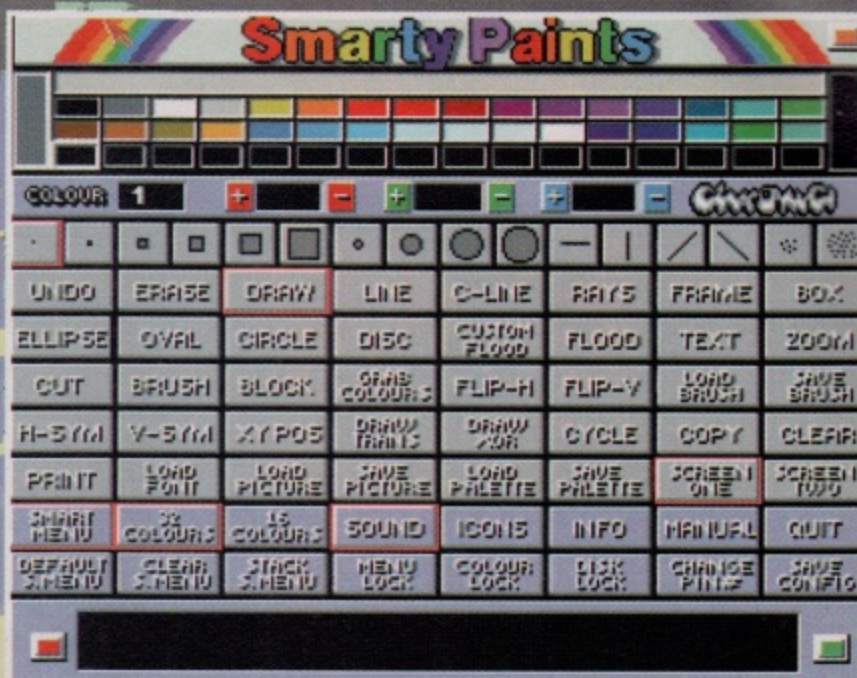
You won't find the kind of advanced features that make *DPaint* the number one artists' choice, but you do get a lot of good features. *Smarty Paints* is geared towards fun, which means lots of colour, lots of patterns, and a quick and easy interface.

Pictures can be saved out in standard IFF format, so you can use it in conjunction with any other graphics package you may have. More fun than a barrel full of monkeys - well, almost.

Available from: Chroma Computer Images, 153 Holt Road, Fakenham, Norfolk, NR21 8JF. Tel/Fax: 0328 862693.

Price: £28.00.

81%



LEGEND BALL TRACKBALL

Mice are tops, there's no doubt about that, but they're far from perfect. The trouble with a mouse is that it requires a certain area of flat desktop in order to work properly. If you happen to work in a very tight space, such as the CU AMIGA office for example, you could find yourself running out of space all the time. Then there's the matter of the trailing cable, which can get caught up under the keyboard, around the phone, or even lasso your coffee cup and cause a major catastrophe. Heavens, it makes you wonder how we get by with mice at all! With a trackball, however, you could put all of that executive stress behind you.

A trackball is, in effect, an up-turned mouse. Instead of moving it around a surface, which in turn moves a roller-ball, you leave the main unit sitting still on the desk and move the ball with your fingers, or any other bodily appendage that happens to be handy. Most trackballs are designed to be rolled with the palm or forefingers. However, clicking the buttons and rolling the ball simultaneously is not normally very practical. This is where the Legend Ball scores most of its points. The ball is operated with the thumb, while the fore and middle fingers rest on the buttons. This means that you don't need to move your hand at all, which makes for much smoother operation than most traditional trackballs.

One important point to note is that it's designed for right-handed use. Left-handers could find it very awkward. Opinion in the office was split on whether the Legend Ball was an improvement on the mouse. Tony Horgan found it a godsend on his cluttered desk, while Lisa reckoned it was highly irritating and too inaccurate. All were agreed though, that it's definitely not suited to graphics packages. I mean, have you ever tried drawing with your thumb? Unfortunately, an inconclusive "try before you buy" seems to be the verdict.

Available from: Ladbrook Computing, 33 Ormskirk Road, Preston, Lancs PR1 2QP. Tel: 0772 203166. Price: £29.99.

85%

MONTAGE AUDIO CD

Record reviews in CU AMIGA? Yes, but there is an excuse. You see Montage is the latest work from the renowned Amiga musician Bjorne Lynne. You may know him as the editor of the popular *AM/FM* disk magazine, or perhaps under his previous pseudonym Dr Awesome, under which he's written countless demo soundtracks for the Crusaders crew.

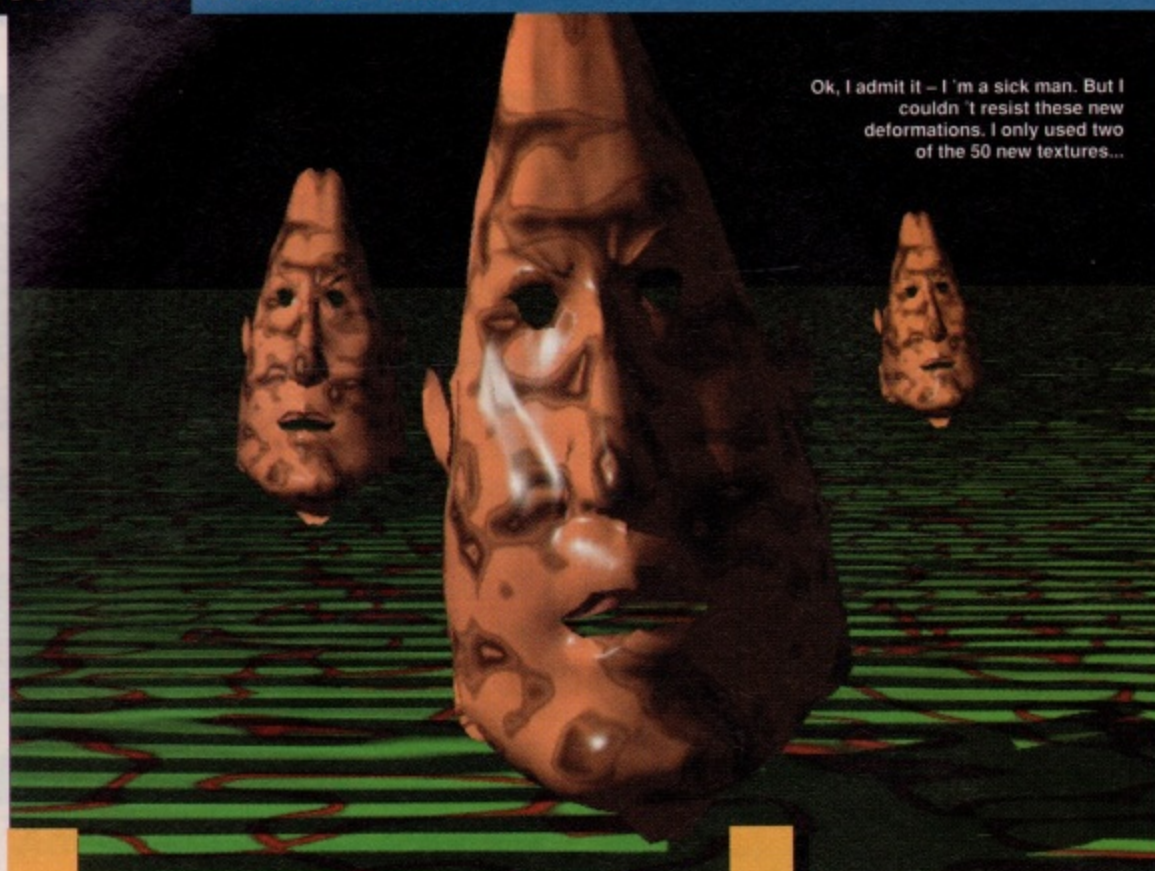
A generous 13 tracks make up the Montage CD, ranging from film-score pieces to dancey numbers. Most of the tracks are instrumental, although there are some robot-style vocals on one of them. There doesn't seem to be any common theme running through this CD, other than the predominance of big ambient noises. Experimental is probably the best description.

All of the tracks were recorded with an extensive MIDI set-up, controlled entirely by Amigas. The production is very clean, due in part to the direct-to-DAT recording. Fans of Lynne's previous work will not be disappointed.

Available from: 17 Bit Software, 1st Floor Offices, 2/8 Market Street, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF1 1DH. Tel: 0924 366982. Or, direct from Bjorn Lynne: Schleppegrells Gate 10, 0556 Oslo, Norway. Tel: 010 47 67 549 331. Fax: 010 47 67 595 300. Price: £15 including P+P.

90%



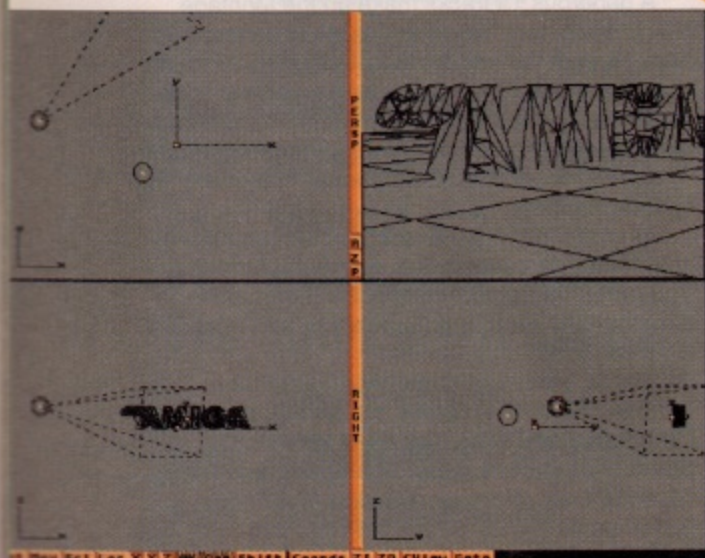


Ok, I admit it - I'm a sick man. But I couldn't resist these new deformations. I only used two of the 50 new textures...

While the World awaits the release of *Imagine 3.0*, John Kennedy takes a look at version 2.9, a stop-gap update for registered 2.0 users.



Imagine 2.9



A useful addition is the ability to see where virtual camera is actually pointing. The perspective view in the top-right will update in real time which you move the camera around.

Imagine 3.0 has to be the most sought after piece of 'serious' software on the Amiga.

Imagine 2.0 was (and is) great, but users have been constantly tempted with promises of new features in regular newsletters. Whispers on the electronic nets bounce across the globe: "it's shipping next month... it's shipping next week... it's shipping tomorrow... the ship's sunk."

This review is based on *Imagine 2.9* which is a 'work in progress' that contains all the parts of 3.0 that are currently working. The upshot is that Impulse have decided to supply anyone who orders a copy of 3.0 with a copy of 2.9 in the interim. Let's see what we think.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Okay, so the loading screen is different, but what else is new? At first glance everything in *Imagine*

2.9 is the same as *Imagine 2.0*. It has the same quad view (top, side, front and isometric), the same editors. What has changed to merit the .9 titular addition?

You have to look very closely at *Imagine 2.9* to spot the differences, but they are pretty major and most are conveniently placed in a small menu called 'new stuff' just so you know where to find them.

Probably the most important new addition is the extension of the isometric view window - the display that shows your object in a 3D wireframe representation. It really has been improved beyond comparison, with real time manipulation and Zoom, Angle and Perspective buttons to allow precise movements. Even better, when the camera is moved around, objects are replaced by real time moving bounding boxes, so no more guessing at complicated viewpoints. As well as the usual wireframe, solid and shaded view a 'new mode' allows the object to be manipulated in the virtual 3D world, so at last all the move and rotate tools can be applied in any window.

A NEW EDITOR!

Imagine has always split tasks across different editing screens. Objects are built in the Form and Detail editors, arranged in the Stage editor and then animated in the Action editor.

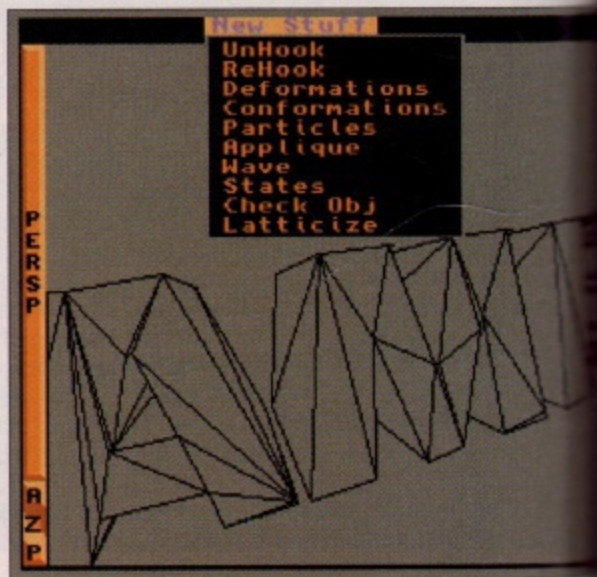
But wait, there is a new screen to know and love - the Spline editor. In the same way the Forms screen is used to make symmetrical objects for tinkering with in the Detail editor, the Spline editor can be used to make curvy shapes. At long last there is even a PostScript font option with dozens of level options: a feature which logo

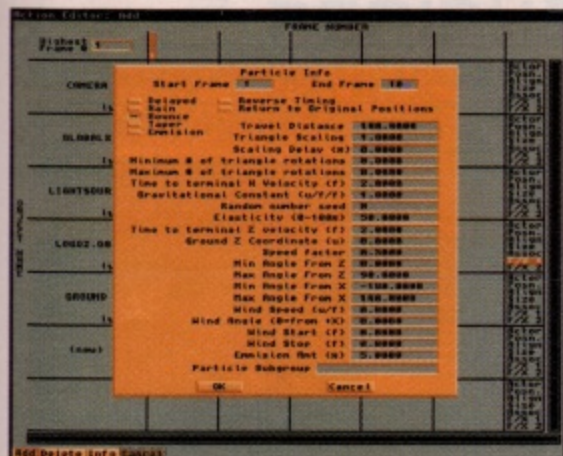
animators have been screaming for. Unfortunately, none of the hundreds of fonts I tried actually worked, and the best I got was a few obscure error messages. Hummph, work in progress I suppose.

There are a few other features which don't quite work: quick render now causes a crash and the AGA support isn't the most comprehensive you'll see. You can count on these bugs being fixed really soon, but Impulse have had plenty of time to work on them. Perhaps they have been working on other features, such as the weird and wonderful particles.

PARTICLES

Imagine is a funny program. You think you've seen it all when up pops a feature that you know will result in you spending the next month of your





Here's one of those features you just know you're going to love. Particle effects provide scope for some of the weirdest things yet to be animated.

life experimenting. Particles and the particle effects is such a feature.

Have you seen *Deep Space 9*? Seen the bit at the start where a large white glittery rock thing flies past, spewing dust everywhere? *Imagine 2.9* can do that.

Want to animate water coming from a hose pipe? Down a waterfall? How about smoke from a candle? Rain? Wind blown snow? (ugh, don't talk to me about snow).

This is what *Imagine* particles are all about. They are nothing like the real world physics of *Real 3D* — ie there aren't bowling balls scattering pins, but they are still very clever, and it's going to be some time before the real power behind these menus and requesters are turned into animations, but you can bet it will look good.

MORPHING AND WARPING

A deformation menu is another new addition, which can be used to add a new twist to your objects. Highlight your object in the usual way, and then decide how to twist, shear, taper, pinch, bend or stretch it. The degree of mangling can be controlled by entering numbers, or by selecting one of the new buttons at the bottom of the Detail Editor and wiggling the mouse. Thankfully the Undo feature still works a treat.

WHAT'S HOT AND WHAT'S NOT

WHAT'S NEW:

Here's a quick at-a-glance list of some of the new features present in *Imagine 2.9*.

- Real time 3D editor view
- Spline editor
- Fifty new textures
- Particles
- AGA rendering modes
- Deformations
- States
- Particle effects

WHAT'S NOT NEW:

And here are some of the features which have been promised at various stages for *Imagine 3.0*, but failed to make it into this 2.9 version.

A new 3.0 manual is currently being written, and is supposed to be considerably better than the 2.0 manual.

- Bones
- Kinematics
- Improved anti-aliasing
- New light sources with improved shadows
- Shadow mapping
- Depth of field effects
- Sound

Object 'states' are closely related to warping objects. When creating animations it's extremely useful to be able to define keyframes, and then get the software to tween or morph the object between them.

For example, an image of a head talking might require one frame with the mouth fully closed, and another with the mouth fully open. The intervening frames can all be calculated by the computer.

Doing this with *Imagine* was always possible, but the real problems start when brush and texture maps are used. If you map a digitised picture of a face onto the head object and alter the shape of the object, the texture seems to remain static as the object squirms underneath in a most repulsive manner.

Now with the addition of states, the textures can be tacked into place so that when an object gets bigger, the texture stretches to cover it. Clever stuff, and it allows for all sorts of weird and wonderful morphing projects.

BAD THINGS

It's a pity that some of the old irritations are still present in *Imagine 2.9*. Any backdrop image still has to be the same size as the rendered image, which makes rendering previews and full-screens tedious. Come on, how much work does it take to scale an image? And please, please, Impulse, add a file requester — it can take ages typing in a long path — only to find that you've made a mistake when the rendering process starts. This isn't what Workbench 3.0 was made for. On the other hand, some real improvements have been made in the palette handling area, although Impulse still haven't got the hang of directly creating animations. It's plain to see that Impulse still have a lot to do before *Imagine* can approach the flexibility of *Real 3Dv2*.

CONCLUSION

Imagine 2.9 is good, but far from the finished 3.0. It's not completely fair to say it's only worth the hassle of upgrading if you are sure you have pushed 2.0 as far as you can already, as the new view modes and object deformations will actually make the program easier to use.

However, the biggest single improvement Impulse can make in version 3.0 is a good manual, preferably one that covers all the features in the program in detail. Until that happens, many *Imagine* owners will only be scraping the surface. **CU**



I couldn't get the PostScript font to work, so I had to use a *DeluxePaint* image, extrude it, bevel it and give it a little deformation. The texture is interesting but bright.

THAT NEW MENU IN FULL

UNHOOK/REHOOK

Controls grouping of objects and their current *Imagine* state.

DEFORMATIONS

Also known as 'six different ways to destroy a perfectly good object'. In reality, the changes can be as drastic or subtle as you wish.

CONFORMATIONS

Moved from a previous menu. Warps objects so they bend around spheres or cylinders.

PARTICLES

Add particles to an object to permit various sorts of animation and special effects.

APPLIQUE

Use a brush map to deform an object, depending on grey-scale colour. Similar to a bump map, but the positions of triangular facets are actually modified.

WAVE

Instantly deform an object with ripple or wave effects.

STATES

Control the 'state' of an object, and lock it with its various brush and texture maps.

CHECK OBJ

Perform an internal check on any objects loaded in. Some previously defined objects may not work perfectly with *Imagine 2.9*.

LATTICIZE

Split an object into its component triangles, adding an edge to each. The easiest way to get scaffolding effects.

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EASE OF USE

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆70%

Thanks to crippling documentation, *Imagine* has never been easy to use. The few pages supplied with 2.9 will point out new features to *Imagine* experts and baffle new-comers

VALUE FOR MONEY

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆79%

Value for money if you have pushed version 2.0 as far as it can go. Probably better to wait for version 3.0.

EFFECTIVENESS

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆85%

Getting there. The new editor view is great, but rather than include the features everyone wanted, Impulse have added what they think everyone will want.

FLEXIBILITY

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆86%

Creating objects is getting easier, although more advanced brush and shadow mapping is needed.

INNOVATION

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆89%

Some pretty exciting features are starting to make *Imagine* look like a serious contender for the rendering crown it once held

It's not *Imagine 3.0* but at least it's available.

OVERALL

82%

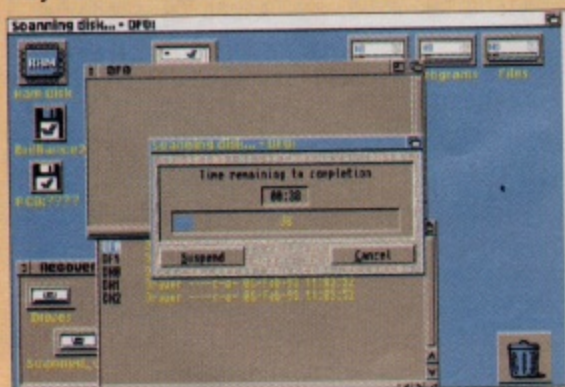
Setting up UDT is done via a *Workbench 2.0* commodity program that gives you full control over the program's operation.

Losing important files on a disk that suddenly decides to kick the bucket can be very frustrating, but need not be fatal. Jason Holborn looks at a program that promises to bring your files back from the dead.

UPPER DISK TOOLS

No storage medium is totally fail-safe and even in these days of CD-ROMs, high density floppy disks and large hard drives, it's still possible for a disk to suddenly crash. When this does happen you can be certain that the disk would have contained files that you desperately needed – be it that vital letter to your solicitor, the musical score that you've been working on for weeks or even your saved game files for *Frontier*.

Recently, I suffered from this problem when my Macintosh hard drive suddenly decided to take a one-way trip to hard drive heaven, taking all my files with it. Unfortunately, I was unable to recover these files but I would have had a much greater chance if they had been stored on an Amiga hard drive and I



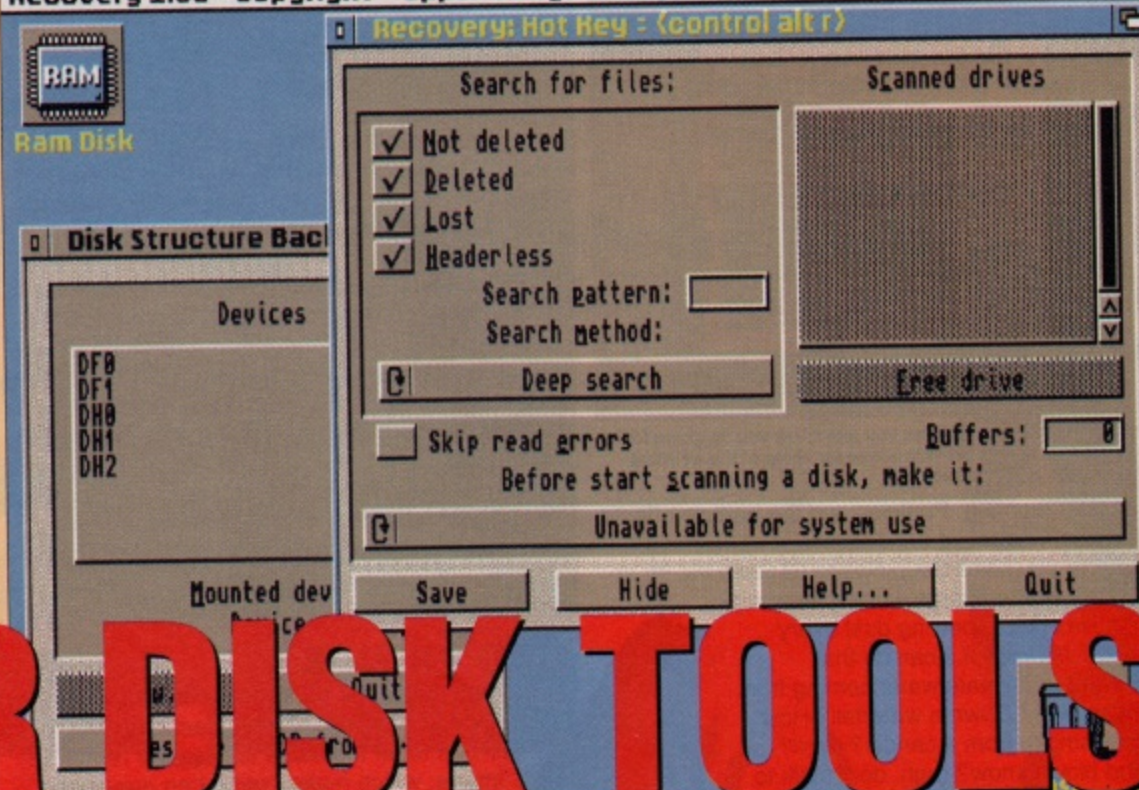
Whenever you access a disk through the REC device, UDT scans the disk for any available files.

had a copy of *Upper Disk Tools* to hand. *Upper Disk Tools* (UDT) is the first in a range of budget utilities which promise high performance without the price. UDT claims that if a disk suddenly develops problems, it will attempt to recover any files that it can from the device. If the disk is too far gone then you're in trouble, but, believe it or not, most faulty disks are usually not that bad.

BREAKDOWN RECOVERY

The UDT program disk contains two programs: *Recovery* and *DSBackup*. *Recovery* is responsible for handling the task of recovering files from faulty disks and is different from the *DiskDoctor* style utilities that Amiga users have come to love. Instead of running as a self-containing utility, *Recovery* installs an AmigaDOS device called REC that can be accessed from either AmigaDOS, *Workbench* (the

Recovery 1.00 - Copyright © Upper Design 1992,1993



REC device is automatically assigned its own disk icon) or even your favourite directory utility. It provides a sort of back door into any standard AmigaDOS device which is currently mounted. This may seem a strange method of handling disk recovery but it works very well indeed.

Say, for example, the disk in your internal drive was faulty and it contained files that you were unable to extract through normal means. All you'd have to do is double click on the REC disk icon and a window containing two drawers will open, one of which is labelled Drives. Inside this drawer is a further set of drawers, one for each AmigaDOS device (DF0, DH0 etc). To extract the files from DF0 all you have to do is to double click on the DF0 drawer and UDT will then scan the disk for any files that it can find. It's intelligent too – even if the file doesn't have a 'header' or has been deleted, UDT will still find it (most of the time). Scanning a standard AmigaDOS floppy disk takes about a minute and once it's complete, a directory is created inside the DF0 drawer containing the names of all the files that UDT managed to find. If it managed to find the files that you thought you had lost, you can then copy them across to a standard AmigaDOS floppy or hard disk simply by dragging them out of the REC device window and onto the backup disk.

This technique seems to work well – of all the faulty disks I managed to muster, UDT rescued the files on every one. In fact one particular disk was so badly corrupted that even the *Workbench DiskDoctor* and the PD program *DiskSalv2* refused to touch it. Not UDT though – it happily extracted all the files that I wanted without even so much as a hiccup.

Also on the UDT disk is a second utility called *DSBackup* (Disk Structure Backup) that allows you to backup the RDB (Rigid Disk Block) structure of any disk. This can be very useful if the structure of the disk becomes corrupt (one of the most common problems with AmigaDOS disks), as it will allow you to restore the structure of the disk, therefore giving access to the files on that device. Hard disk users will find this useful as it can save the hassles of having to restore an entire partition from a set of back-up disks.

CONCLUSION

Most products of this type are plagued by the widespread availability of PD alternatives but UDT is

so powerful that it's unlikely that you'll find a PD program that even comes close. *DiskSalv2* is about the best available, but even it cannot compete with the level of recoverability that UDT provides. Combine this impressive level of effectiveness with a price tag that is lower than the average Amiga game and UDT seems just too good to be true.

If you value your data then UDT is a program that you shouldn't be without. It certainly found a permanent home on my hard disk! **CU**

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EASE OF USE

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆84%

Thanks to its device-based design, UDT is possibly the easiest disk recovery program available.

VALUE FOR MONEY

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆88%

Twenty pounds for a program that could save you a great deal of heartache is just too good to be true.

EFFECTIVENESS

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆92%

UDT managed to save the files on every faulty disk I threw at it!

FLEXIBILITY

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆84%

All filing systems and device types are automatically handled by UDT.

INNOVATION

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆88%

Disk recovery programs are nothing new, but UDT's method of working certainly is.

Upper Disk Tools is one of the best and most effective disk recovery programs available.

OVERALL

88%



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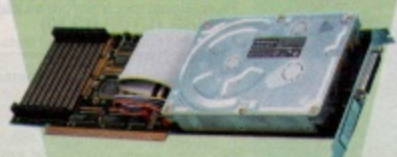
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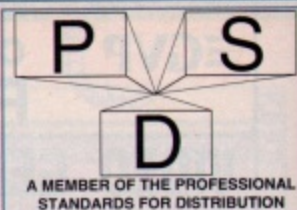
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Music-X 2.0

At long last, the eagerly awaited follow up to one of the Amiga's most enduring and popular music programs is with us. Mat Broomfield doh-ray-me's his way through **Music-X 2.0**.

Music-X 1.0 was released to universal acclaim back in the latter part of 1989. It was the first music sequencer written specifically to take advantage of all of the Amiga's unique abilities. Unfortunately, that version was heavily bugged, and it was 1990 before the more stable version 1.1 hit the streets.

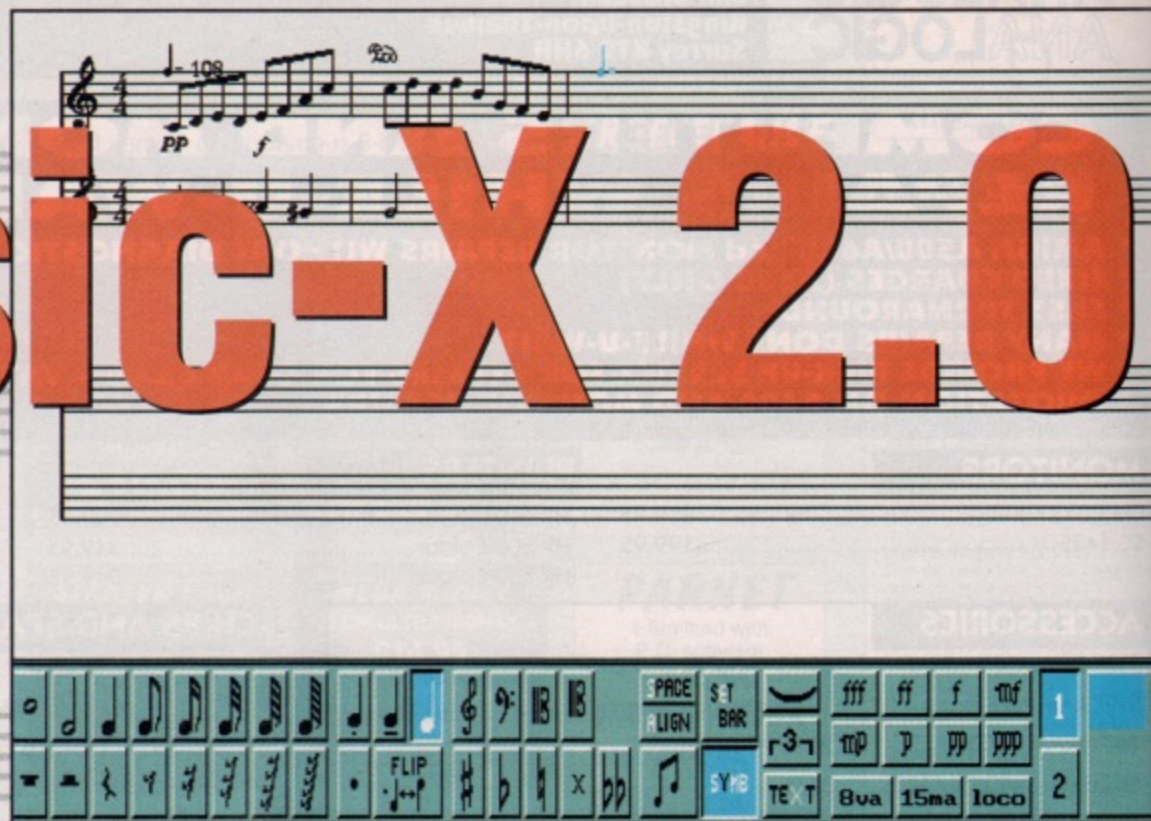
Initially retailing for £199, the program sold in droves, and remarkably, is still selling several hundred copies a week even now. If you look around, you should have no trouble finding a version for £30 or less.

Although it is extremely good, the one thing that the program lacked, was an easy way of entering tunes for those people who don't play an instrument, or who may want to orchestrate or transcribe sheet music.

Music-X 2.0 solves that problem in one elegant and delightful stroke. In fact, I would even go so far as to say, that the program's main raison d'être, is to provide **Music-X** owners with a good notation package.

The new package is in fact, not one, but two programs; **Music-X** and the new addition, **Notator-X**.

Because the program prints as good as it looks, it comes with a comprehensive set of page layout options.

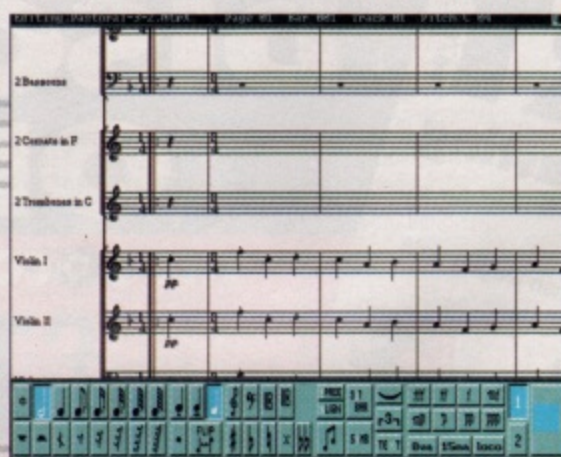


The major new feature of **Music-X 2.0** is a comprehensive traditional notation package called **Notator-X**.

X. So far as I can see, the **Music-X** part of the equation is identical to the original 1.1 version except for one minor change which allows it to communicate with **Notator-X**. For that reason, I'll leave the music **X** part until later because I'm just dying to tell you all about **Notator-X**!

As I've already mentioned, **Notator-X** is designed to accept music scored in traditional notation. In other words, quavers and minims, bars and clefs, triplets and ties: the sort of thing that most professional musicians, be they computer, rock or orchestral, use.

At first glance, the screen does not appear to be very busy, and you could easily be forgiven for thinking that the program was closely related to Dr



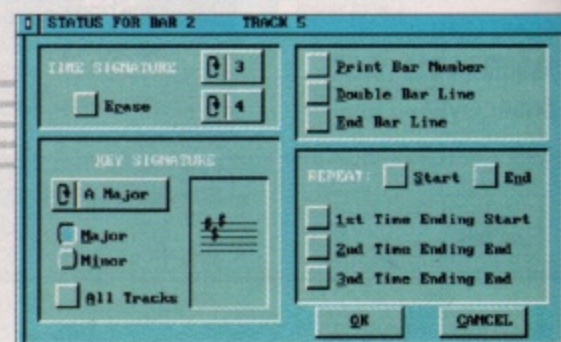
Although it serves a purely aesthetic function, you can group staves using straight or curly brackets.

T's Copyist, one of the least friendly but most powerful notation programs in the world. In fact, in some respects there is a definite relationship, but more about that later.

POWER STAVES

Before you start entering music, you'll probably want to set up the number of staves, as well as defining their clefs and the instruments that will be assigned to them.

This program supports up to 18 staves and 36 tracks. If you want to use more than 18 tracks, then you'll simply have to double up on one of the staves. Although this is a nuisance when it hap-



The bar settings can be changed with every bar, and the clef and key signatures can even be altered midway through a bar. It's just a pity that the same time signature has to be used for all the instruments in a bar.

pens, it's really only the liveliest orchestral scores that need more than 18 separate parts in piece.

Once you've specified the number of staves, you can assign specific MIDI channels and names to them. If you're using the program purely for its printed output, this step is redundant, but if you plan to perform the score via **Music-X** then it's invaluable. Incidentally, **Notator-X** is capable of saving scores in standard MIDI format too, so you can even import them into programs like **Bars & Pipes** or **Sequencer 1**.

There's one final aesthetic duty that you can perform upon your staves before you assign them their individual clefs – and that's to group them. This is sometimes done to indicate instrumental groupings, especially when there are separate parts for more than one of the same instrument. The program supports straight and curly braces (although they can't be nested with, say a three staff straight brace inside a seven staff curly one).

FRIENDLY BAR SET UP

Now that you've set up the overall appearance of the score, it's time to set the characteristics of the individual bars and staves. The Set Bar requester lets you define time signatures, key signatures, bar lines and numbers and repeats and endings. Strangely, given the program's flexibility, it's not possible to specify a time signature which is unique to a single staff, which means that all parts must be notated to the same signature.

Fortunately the same is not true of the key signature which may be specified in a major or minor key, and can be altered at any time, even mid-way

This program gives you more notation primitives than any other Amiga music package, except the ultra-expensive *Copyist Professional*.

through a bar (as can the clef – ahh bliss!). Now at last, you can enter some notes!

The program's authors, Desert Software, have tried hard to make the program as friendly to use as possible, with mouse and keyboard shortcuts at every turn. The trouble is, with these sort of programs, user-friendliness is such a personal thing, and what's good for one person, may be less attractive to another. They have tried to reach some sort of a compromise by making *Notator-X* as user-configurable as possible and, although they've succeeded in some cases, in others they've failed.

Anyway, down to specifics. You're initially greeted by two empty staves, each of them two screens wide. The staves are assigned a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. Apart from that,



JARGON BOX

EVENT: Sequencer information is ordered as a linear stream of data which tells an instrument or the Amiga how to perform a piece of music. Any single instruction is known as an event.

GATE: The actual duration of a note (as opposed to its scored duration). Articulation affects the gate of a note.

MIDI: Musical Instrument Digital Interface. The acronym for a standard communications protocol between instruments and computers which allows them to 'speak' to each other.

PIANO-ROLL: A way of notating music that was first used on cardboard pianola scores. Notes are represented by small rectangles. The longer the rectangle, the longer the duration of the note. The higher the rectangle is on the piano roll, the higher its pitch. Its horizontal position denotes when it will actually play.

REAL-TIME: The process of performing an action (in this case recording a tune) 'on-the-fly' so that the finished music will be replayed with exactly the same timing as you played the original.

SEQUENCER: A program which is used to record, combine and edit sequences of music, played in real-time on a MIDI-compatible instrument.

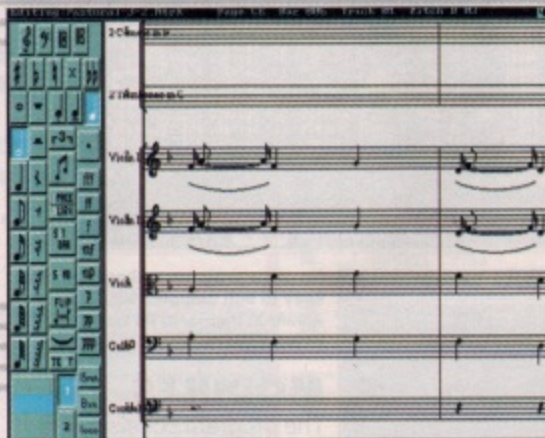
STAFF/STAVE: The set of five lines on which musical notes are written.

specify how they will be played (staccato, tenuto and normal) via the articulation icons. If these aren't enough, you can add additional note expression using the contents of the Symbols menu. These include pedal on, fermata, accents and more. If these terms seem like double Dutch to you, don't worry, they simply define the duration (gate) and playing style of a note, so an accented note would be played more aggressively (with more attack) than a non-accented one, for example.

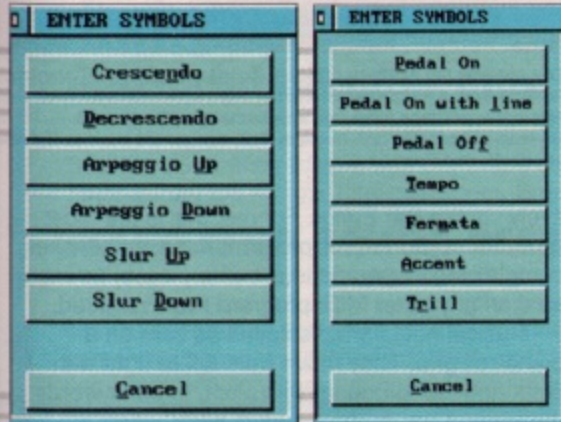
Of course, it will come as no surprise to learn that *Notator-X* supports the standard accidental modifiers (sharp, flat and natural). What will come as a pleasant surprise, is the fact that it also recognises double sharps and flats – to my knowledge the only Amiga program to do so. In fact, the program can claim a lot of Amiga firsts and it's very exciting because of this.

Notator-X really is a musician's music program, designed by somebody who's intimately acquainted both with scored music, and the short-falls of existing programs.

But hey, I'm getting ahead of myself again.



The program handles slurs very well. In fact it even lets you re-define the shape of each one using bezier handles.



The contents of the Symbol menu are context sensitive. In other words, the choice of symbols available to you changes according to whether or not notes are selected.

a rather unresponsive blue crotchet cursor sits staring at you from the upper of the staves. This cursor denotes exactly where all musical and notational events will be entered (except when the events apply to groups of notes).

NOTATION

At the bottom of the screen is the icon palette containing every possible event that you can notate. At the left-hand end are the notes, ranging from a semi-breve (whole note) to a one hundred and twenty eighth note (a stick with five tails!). The corresponding rests are also included. Naturally, dotted notes are also supported, although sadly, double dots are not. To make up for that the program does support an infinite number of tuplets. Click on the Tuplet icon and a requester will appear asking exactly what duration you want the notes to occupy. For example, three notes in the time of two, or seven in the time of six.

Once you've chosen these notes, you can

IT'S IN THE LINKS

Music-X 2.0 is not so much a new program, as an addition to the existing one. This is good because the original program's easy-to-use interface is what made it so popular in the first place.

Version 2.0 gives you a whole new program called *Notator-X* which you can use for entering your scores. The clever thing is the way that the two programs work together.

Either of them can be loaded and used as a stand-alone program. So if you're in the mood for a little sequencing, just load *Music-X*, whereas if it's a bit of orchestration that tickles your fancy, you only need to boot *Notator-X*. However, and this is the really good bit, if you want to try out the results of your work as you go, you can load both programs together and flip between the two. Each of them contains an option to copy data from the other, so it's a simple matter to notate a little ditty you've just played, and an equally easy matter to sequence some sheet music that you may have entered.

ENTERING NOTES

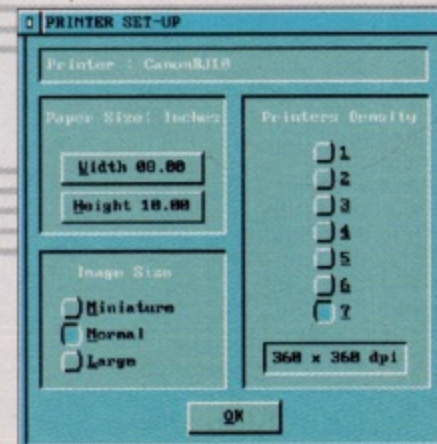
When you've selected a musical event, pressing the return key will place it on the current staff at the cursor location. Once the event has been placed, the cursor remains exactly where it is, which can lead to momentary confusion as to whether or not you placed the event at all. This is not helped by the fact that it's possible to place the same note twice in the same location, which seems somewhat silly.

To move onto the next location, you'll need to manually move the cursor with the mouse or keyboard. By default, the cursor will then naturally move to the next available spot in the staff. Here's where the program starts to resemble *Copyist*, or even *Sonix* for it will not let you move the cursor ahead to a bar, say six bars hence, until you've filled the intervening space with notes or rests. This is a real pig because it forces you to work in a

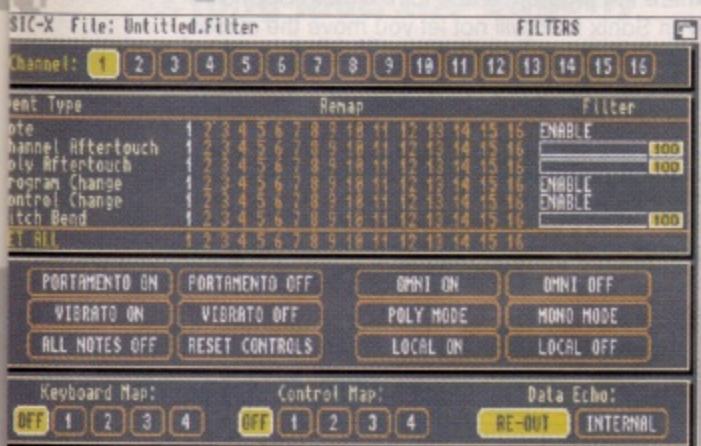
You can alter numerous parameters which will affect the size and spacing of the on-screen image, etc ensuring that editing is as friendly as possible. If only the screen would auto-scroll to follow the edit cursor instead of having to be manually moved!



totally linear fashion which can be a bit stifling to one's creativity. It's initially far easier to use the program by keyboard, because the controls are intuitive and easy to use. However, although I've not yet become comfortable with the mouse controls, they do offer total control, allowing you to



Notator-X produces some truly excellent printed output, making the program useful to professionals as well as musical hacks like myself!



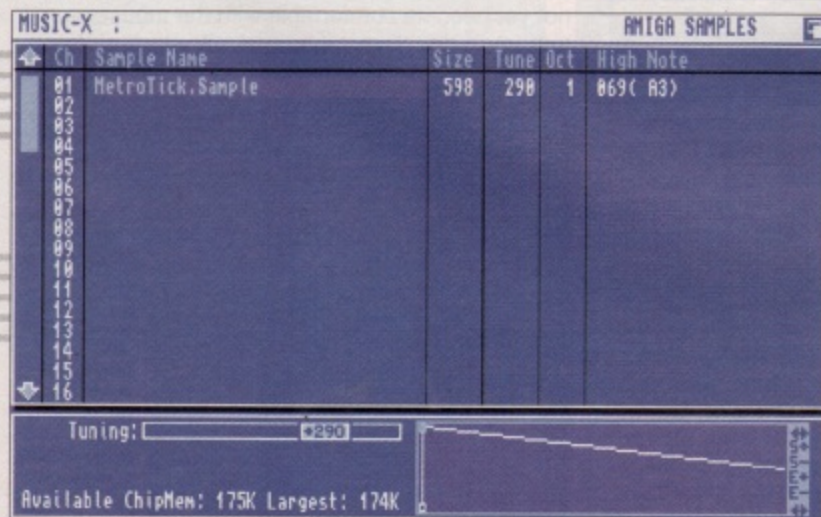
The program consists of numerous related modules such as these two.

notate far faster than the keyboard will let you.

Anyway, entering notes is extremely easy, and it won't take long before you've built up a nice little score. Once you've laid down a few bars, there are further modifications that you can make. For example, beams, slurs and ties can only be applied to two or more notes, as can de/crescendos and arpeggios. To select multiple notes, simply use the mouse to drag a box around the required notes and that's it. If you need to select notes across lots of bars, the screen resolution, display resolution and display sizes can all be altered to accommodate virtually any requirements. Altering the display resolution simply changes the space between notes so that they're easier to select individually, whilst altering the screen resolution and display size physically increases or decreases their size so that you can get more or less bars and staves on the screen at a time. The program also lets you add text to a score, which is handled as slickly as everything else.

Finally, before I finish, I must mention *Notators* printed output, which is by far the best I've ever seen on a sequencer. Not only that, but it's very easy to set-up, and forces you to endure none of

Music-X is one of the few sequencers specifically designed to handle samples as well as it handles MIDI instruments.



the mucking about associated with other, somewhat bug-ridden programs.

AND MUSIC-X?

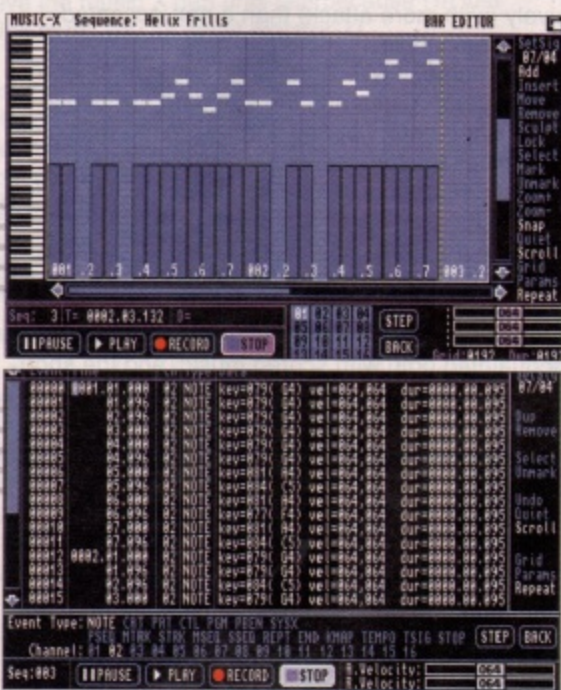
Much as I'd love to keep on talking about *Notator-X*, it would be remiss of me to review the package without saying something about the less glamorous part of the partnership; *Music-X*.

As I mentioned before, this part of the program is essentially unchanged from the version that was released in 1990. Apart from the rather unpleasant on-screen colours, that's not a bad thing because the program was in many ways, a model of innovation and user-friendliness. If only the same could be



The main window which gives you control of the sequencer via easy to use tape style controls.

said for the manual which, frankly, although grammatically sound enough, does not help the novice to learn the program. It seems to be all reference and virtually no tutorial; unfortunately this is an essential requirement for a program of such complexity.



No other program makes it quite as easy to edit complex MIDI events as *Music-X*, thanks to its Bar and Event Editors.

MODULES

The program consists of nine inter-related editors and control modules which between them allow you to operate the program. Although designed as a sequencer, the program will let you use IFF samples as well. In fact, it'll even let you load up to 64 of them at a time!

The program's main screen is the sequencer win-

dow, from where you can record your tunes in real-time. The top left of the screen is occupied by tape-style controls which allow you to specify where in a recorded sequence, additional recording or playback will commence. Recorded sequences are initially stored in a temporary buffer, and it's only once you've confirmed that you want to save them that they are added to the sequence list at the bottom of the screen. This list has room for up to 250 sequences, so there's more than enough for even the most demanding users, especially as sequences can be merged together to give more space.

When you've created a sequence, you can modify the various events individually or collec-



You can use the Keymap Editor to define complex MIDI events, ranging from a single musical note, to an entire MIDI control sequence, perhaps even one which changes the current keymap or operates non-musical MIDI equipment such as lights or effects machines.

tively via the Bar Editor. For me, this is the most powerful section of the program because it makes complex MIDI operations extremely easy: far more so than any other MIDI program I've ever used.

Musical notes are displayed as bars on a piano-roll grid. They move from left to right with time, and top to bottom with pitch. In other words the lower a bar is, the lower its pitch, whilst the further to the right it is, the later in a song it will be played.

It's not just notes that can be showed on this editing screen though; every type of MIDI event can be displayed and edited too. The start and end velocities of every note can be displayed as blocks whose height denotes their amplitude. Program numbers (instrument changes) are shown as small numbered blocks. By dragging them up and down the piano roll, the instrument numbers are changed. Better still, even complex and system exclusive events such as modulation, pitch bends and aftertouch can be added and edited with the same ease.

If this graphical approach is not to your liking, you can always switch from the Bar Editor to the Event Editor. This contains the entire song in list format, with each event described textually – ideal for users of Soundtracker-style programs!

Music-X also includes a comprehensive Keymap Editor which lets you assign different events or sequences to every key of a MIDI keyboard. This means that you could, for example, assign a zone on your keyboard to automatically execute prerecorded performances, a feature you will need if you want to use the program in a live commercial environment.

Even in its current state (I looked at a pre-release version), *Music X 2.0* looks immensely promising and I simply can't wait to use the finished product.

For more information call the Software Business on 0480 496 497 or watch out for the full review, coming soon, in CU AMIGA. **CU**

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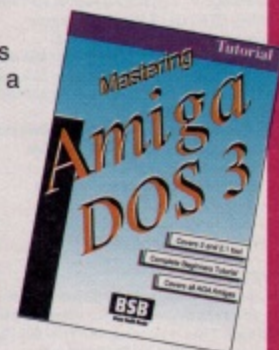
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ADVANCED AMIGA ANALYZER

The Amiga is a complicated beast and when it starts playing up, it can be a real headache to locate the source of the problem. But not if you own the *Advanced Amiga Analyzer*. Mat Broomfield goes into analysis mode.

Like all computers, the Amiga is a complex piece of equipment that takes a while to understand. If you want to get to grips with its operating system, or how its software works, there are loads of books available to help you. If you want to find out a bit more about the hardware then you're on your own.

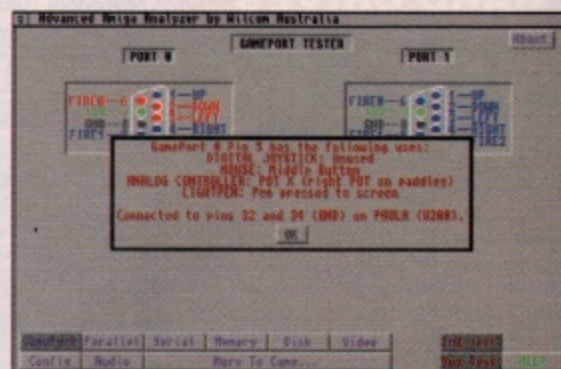
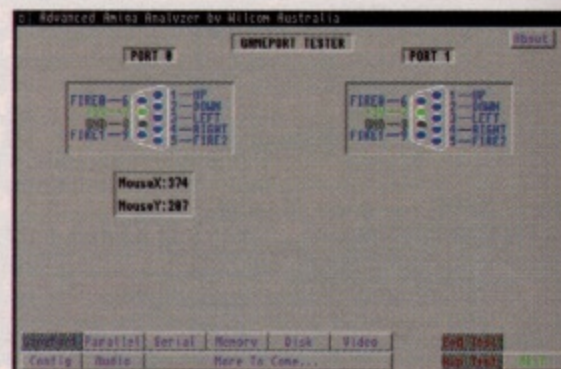
Most of the time, this lack of information isn't a problem because it's generally only programmers and dedicated enthusiasts who need to get that deeply involved in the Amiga's inner workings. However, like all intricate machines, the Amiga sometimes breaks down.

It's very rare for the computer to go completely belly up, so that you can't even get a display of some sort. Far more often, a single component will fail, perhaps intermittently at first, or it may just stop working all in one go. These failures can be a real devil to track down, but they can totally wreck your computing activities too.

With repairs costing anything from £30-£100, it's in your best interests to try and locate the source of any problems yourself. Until now, that hasn't been easy, if you didn't know the Amiga intimately, your chances were not good.

Now, thanks to the *Advanced Amiga Analyzer*, even the least computer-literate user can perform a full series of diagnostic tests on his Amiga.

Below: The only video test that can be performed with *Advanced Amiga Analyzer* is a voltage test.



The program contains representations of all the external ports. Here you see the joystick and mouse ports. The various pins even light up as you move the mouse or joystick.

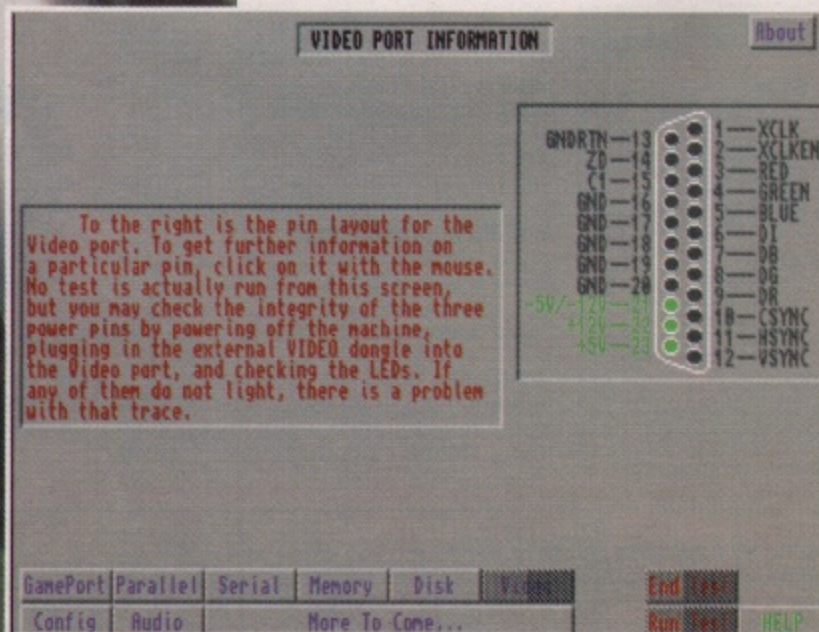
FEARSOME TWOSOME

Analyzer consists of software and hardware which carry out specific tests on separate system elements. The software is the most important part of the set-up because, not only does it perform most of the tests, it also suggests where problem areas are likely to be should a fault occur.

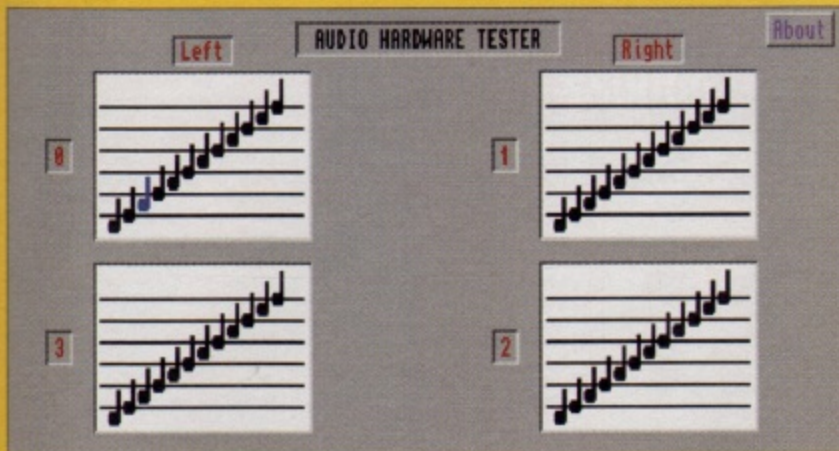
All operations are performed via a button bank which appears at the bottom of the screen. This bank allows you to select the area to be checked, as well as letting you start and stop test runs.

The first button on the button bank is labelled *GamePort*. It lets you test the status of the two joystick/mouse ports. When you select this button, the screen display shows a representation of both ports, with each pin clearly labelled.

If a device is connected to either of the ports, moving it will light up various pins on the display. In order to perform an accurate test, you should plug in the mouse, move it around and try pressing the buttons. You should then plug in a joystick and move that around too, because the ports



The *Advanced Amiga Analyzer* is ideal for Amiga repairers and hobbyists. In less than five minutes you can use it to check your Amiga's health by performing tests on virtually every part of the hardware.



Left: The program only performs the most superficial sound tests, playing a series of notes through each sound channel.



Although the program tests your floppy drives, it seems to be testing the actual disks as much as the drives. Most of the error messages refer to faulty media and errors in the data structure.

react differently. If you have a three-button mouse or an analogue joystick, *Analyzer* can test them also.

If you should detect an error whilst performing the test; ie the appropriate pin doesn't light up when moving in that direction, clicking on that pin will tell you how that part of the port interfaces with the computer. This is invaluable because it tells you exactly what chips and what circuit path to examine in order to find the problem.

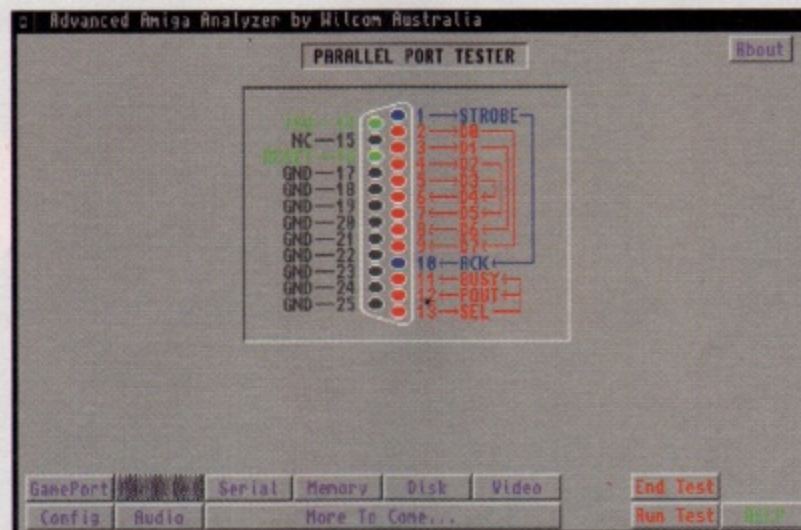
For example, if the right direction on your joystick doesn't work, you're told that the offending pin is buffered through the 74LS157 chip (U202, pin 13) and into the 8362 Denise chip (U201). This handy information makes finding a cure much easier as you can pinpoint where the fault is. There's also a help button which has full details on the tests.

However, for some reason, the software cannot tell you whether or not the appropriate power is reaching the joystick ports, and that's where the extra hardware comes in. Plug the dangling 9-pin D plug into either port and a light will be illuminated to indicate that all is well. Where no light appears, all is not well. The hardware is also used to check the power of the serial, parallel and RGB video ports.

YOU CAN'T WAGGLE THAT MISSUS

When it comes to testing the serial and parallel ports, there is nothing to waggle around to check for a response, so the hardware has to generate a signal that simulates such action. After you've selected serial or parallel from the button bar, you will be presented with a graphical representation of the appropriate port. To perform a full check, you'll need to click the run test button at the bottom of the screen. Then, in conjunction with the hardware, the program begins running a series of tests on the

The system configuration gives a summary of the components in your computer so you know what can and can't be upgraded.



When it comes to testing the serial and parallel ports, you'll need to plug in the extra hardware. The program then automatically tests them for you.

various pins. If an error is detected, the offending pin is highlighted and information about that pin's function is given as a diagnostic aid.

Not all of the tests involve testing external ports. The memory test for example, checks the status of all RAM, including expansion memory. It does this by writing to and reading from the entire memory in 256k blocks (small enough for you to locate any particular chips that may have failed). If any errors are discovered, the offending memory address is listed at the bottom of the screen.

The disk drive checking section is designed to check for faults on any drives attached to the Amiga. It does this by performing read and write tests. If a fault occurs, a variety of error numbers may be generated, and although most of these are more to do with the structure of the data on the disk, they can be used to detect faults such as misaligned or damaged heads.

Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be a way of differentiating between the various types of error, but that's not really a weakness in the program.

The Audio test is unsophisticated, but at least it lets you check whether or not all your Amiga's sound channels are working. It does this by playing a short scale of notes across each of the four channels, one after the other, whilst highlighting the notes on-screen.

The idea is that if your Amiga misses a note, you'll know it. To be honest, I don't believe there are any faults which will knock out a single note or even a single sound channel, so I feel that this option may have been included to satisfy the inexperienced user who tends to like lots of flashing lights and bells!

The video section is not so much a test as an information screen. They say in the manual that the only test that can be easily applied to the video port is to check whether or not power's getting to it. I would have thought that some sort of test card

might have been useful to help ensure that the RGB lines were working.

The final section is labelled Config and it's especially useful for those occasions when you need to know exactly what chips are lurking inside your Amiga. It reports the ROM, Agnus, Denise, CPU and FPU versions as well as the display mode. It also displays a list of all expansion boards and a summarised memory map. Whilst this last section is useful enough, SysInfo does offer a more complete system summary.

CONCLUSION

If you only own an A500, or 600 perhaps, it would be very hard to justify the price of *Advanced Amiga Analyzer*. If, however, you own several Amigas, or you belong to a group of Amiga-owning friends, or even an Amiga club, this is the very thing you need.

Analyzer takes all the uncertainty out of a faulty computers and lets you quickly establish whether a fault is software or hardware rooted, and in the case of the latter, gives you valuable advice in establishing a solution. Amiga repairers can hardly afford not to use this kit. **CU**

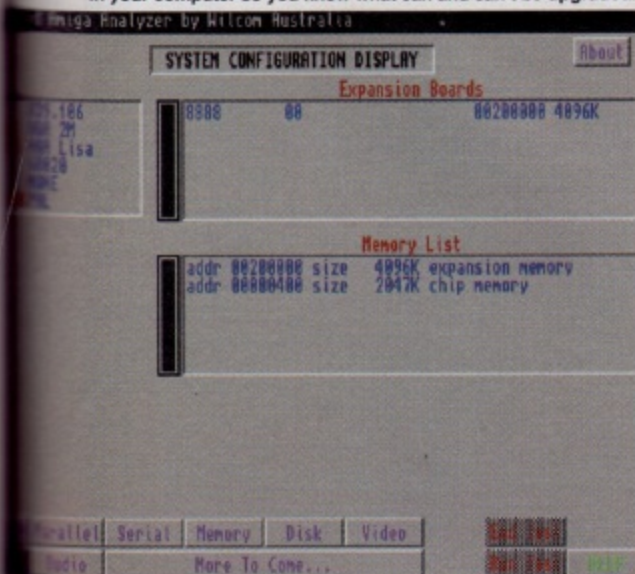
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- ☐ 3620-2 BODYSHOP 4
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- ☐ 3795 XANADU AGA
- ☐ 3796-2 FIT CHICKS 3 AGA
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- ☐ 3831 CHANNEL 2 MAGAZINES
- ☐ 3833-4 MAGNA AGA PICTURES
- ☐ 3838-2 COMPLEX ORIGIN
- ☐ Unreal introduction to an amazing Mega demo
- ☐ 3843-2 STAR TREK PICTURES
- ☐ Impressive AGA Star Trek Slides
- ☐ 3853 IT SMELLS LIKE CHANEL No. 5
- ☐ Amazing new A1200 Megademo
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- ☐ DP12 A1200HD INSTALLER
- ☐ DP13 HARD DISK PREP
- ☐ DP14 PRINTER DRIVERS
- ☐ DP15 ENGINEERS KIT AGA
- ☐ DP16 EXTERMIN8 AGA
- ☐ DP17 CRAFTN'COPY AGA

COMPATIBILITY!

All disks should work on all available Amiga's unless otherwise stated. *AGA* means it only works on A1200/A4000.

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- ☐ 3559 POOLS WIZARD JNR
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- ☐ 3571 WILLY WORM
- ☐ 3572 SIMON
- ☐ 3573-2 18H HOLE GOLF
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- ☐ 3575 LEMMINGS NIGHT OUT
- ☐ 3576 D COPY 3.1
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- ☐ 3582 KEPPERS GALE AGA
An AGA keffrens demo
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- D82/83...Budbrain 1 (2)
- D83...Budbrain 2
- D85...Cronics Neverwhere
- D87...Pirhana demo
- D101...Alcatraz M/Demo 3
- D102...A Chaplin Demo
- D103...Total Destruction
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- D206...Dreamers 3
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- D274...Delpackers Demo
- D276...Cave La Weird
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- D328/329...Red Dwarf (2)
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- D371...Lethal Exit
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- D377...Claustrophobia
- D381...Hoover Demo
- D381...The Trip
- D382/3...Project Techno (2)
- D384...Interspace
- D386...Mindwar (AGA)
- D387...Panta Rhei (AGA)
- D388...Hysteria
- D393-5...Grapevine 15 (3)
- D396-8...Grapevine 16 (3)
- D399-401...Grapevine 17 (3)
- D402...In The Kitchen

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- U34...Red Devils Utils 1
- U35...Soundtracker Special
- U38...Paint,Music,Media
- U39...Card Designer
- U41...Red Devils Utils 4
- U43...Future Composer
- U44...Kefrons Makeboot
- U45...P.E. Giant Utils 168
- U47...Label Designer
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- U57...Quickbench
- U59...Font Designer
- U60...D-Point Fonts 1
- U61...D-Point Fonts 2
- U62...Med 3.20
- U63...Direct Anim Creator
- U64...Crossword Designer
- U66...CLI Help + Others
- U67...S/Tracker Mega
- U68...Ultimate Boots 2
- U69...Ultimate Boots 2
- U73...Powerlog
- U74...M-Cad
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- U77...Electroclad
- U78...Ami Base
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- U82...Slideshow Maker
- U83...Catalog Workshop 1
- U84...Catalog Workshop 2
- U87...Hard Disk Utils
- U89-94...Amateur Radio (6)
- U95...C-Light + Others
- U96...GFX Utils 1
- U100...Ham Lab
- U101...Sid V2.0
- U108...A-Gene
- U113...Midi Utilities
- U118/119...Video Utils (2)
- U132...GFX Utils 2
- U133/134...North C (2)
- U136...CrossDoss (demo)
- U138...Squid Squad Utils
- U139...Terminalities V1.0
- U140...Squash 1 (2.04 only)
- U141...Squash 2 (2.04 only)
- U142...Text Plus 3
- U144...Demos Samples 1
- U145...Digital Intro Design
- U146...Viz Clip Art
- U147...Spectrum Emulator
- U151...Slipstream V/Killers
- U152...Red Devils Utils 6
- U154...Amigafox W/P
- U155...P.D. Utils Does Disk
- U163...Quickbench + (2.04)
- U164...Rim Database
- U166...Dennis's Hack Disk
- U167...Demolisher Utils
- U168...Home Business 3
- U172...Squelch (1.3 only)
- U176...GFX Utils 3
- U177...Star Charts
- U179-180...Dice (2)
- U181...Celtic Demo Maker
- U186-206...Track Ins 10-30
- U207...Icon Collection 1
- U211...Chemesthetics
- U212...Animated Pointers
- U213...Desk Top Publisher
- U215...Misty Sid 2
- U216...Master V/Killer 2.2
- U218...Data Base Wizard
- U223...Ten Pin Data Base
- U224...Q-Base Data Base
- U226...Games Solutions 1
- U231...D-Point Fonts 3
- U235...Ami Cash V1
- U238...Iconmania
- U240...Icon Editor
- U252...Opticomms 2.0
- U254...New Superkillers 2
- U255...Protractor v2.0
- U256...Atari ST Emulator
- U258...D-Copy 3
- U262...PC Emulator
- U273...Vidi Fonts 1
- U274...Illinois Labels
- U275...600 Business letters
- U279...Invoice Printer
- U283...Headline Fonts
- U289...Amos Updater
- U290...Kickstart 2.0
- U293...Black Tiger Utils 2
- U294...Text Engine V4.0
- U296...Ultimate Disk Crea
- U297...10 PD Copiers
- U298...Protractor V3.0
- U299...Address Print V3.1
- U303...Game Tamer
- U308...Music Base V1
- U309...PP Minicrunch
- U311...Vnosph V2.30
- U313...Pro Astrology
- U314...Pools Wizard Jr
- U319...Lyster V2.1
- U320...Garden Designer
- U327...Bezier Surf
- U329...Music Engine V3.4
- U330...Starview
- U331...X-Beat Pro
- U332...Superview V2.4

GAMES

- G1...Return To Earth
- G2...Games comp 5
- G3...Dizzy Lizzy
- G4...Scum Haters
- G5...Parachute Joust
- G6...Frantic Freddie
- G8...Twintrix
- G9...Pseudo Cop
- G10...Drip
- G11...Bug Bash
- G12...Asteroids
- G13...J.L. Ammatron
- G14...Escape From Jovi
- G15...Moria Adventure
- G16...Ground Attack
- G17...Megaball
- G18...Insiders Club
- G19...Various Adventures
- G20...Battleforce
- G22...Dragon Cave
- G24...Rings Of Zon
- G25...Mayhem
- G26...Mechflight
- G27...The Tennis Game
- G28...Flashbier
- G29...Clad Rogers
- G30...Greyslayer
- G31...7-Tiles
- G32...Mega Comp 1
- G33-34...Star Trek 1 (2)
- G35-37...Star Trek 2 (3)
- G38-39...Mechforce (2)
- G40...Klondike
- G42...Car
- G43...Games Comp 2
- G44...S.E.U.C.K. Games
- G45...Sace Games Comp
- G46...Games Comp 3
- G48...Rays Game Disk
- G49...Games Comp 4
- G50...Games Comp 6
- G51-52...Trucking (2)
- G53...Jetpac
- G55...Quick And Silva
- G56...Miniblast
- G57...Lamer Game
- G58...Games comp 7
- G59...Games comp 8
- G60...Pom Pom Gunner
- G61...Caverunner
- G62...Crystal Caverns
- G63...Infact
- G64...Eternal Rome
- G65...Lemmingsoids
- G66...Downhill Challenge
- G67...Lame ST Poets
- G68...Paranoid
- G69...Puggles
- G70...Chainsaw Death
- G71...Pirate Pete's Treasure
- G72...Serene 2
- G73...Castles
- G74...Dynamite Dick
- G75...Card Games 1
- G76...Wizzy's Quest
- G77...Growth
- G78...Skate
- G79...Atic Atac
- G80...Napoleonic Sim
- G81...Project 1
- G82...Lazer Zone
- G83...Lemmings Pack
- G84...Star Trek S.E.U.P
- G85...Lettrix
- G87...Matched Pairs
- G89...Snake Pit
- G90...Zeus
- G92...Blizzard
- G93...The Maze Game
- G94...Subculture
- G95...Hollywood Trivia
- G97...Shootout
- G99...Holy Grail Adventure
- G100...Amos Coinprod
- G101...Classic Comp 1
- G102...Card Games 2
- G103...Super Skoda Chall
- G104...Grand Prix Sim
- G106...Computer Conflict 2
- G107...Mission X Raid 2
- G108...NU Game
- G110...Tricky + The Turn
- G111...Marble Slide
- G112...Games Comp 10
- G113...Black Jack Lab
- G114...Dungeon Of Madroj
- G115...Amiga Columns
- G116...Robocop In Iraq
- G117...Mutant Camels
- G120-122...Warlock (3)
- G124...Bart Simpson
- G126...Air Ace 2
- G127...Breakout Con Kit
- G128...Pipeline
- G129...Dung Of Doridian
- G132...Peters Quest
- G133...Star Trek 3
- G134...Piperider
- G139...Door To Door
- G143...Solid Quad
- G144...Omega Race
- G145...Mission X Raid 3
- G146...Trek 73
- G147...Wack In Wonderland
- G148...Squats Revenge
- G149...Sky Fight
- G150...Wet Beaver
- G151...Amnesia
- G152...Wizard World
- G154...Totally Frantic Quiz
- G155...Chess V2.0
- G156...Smash Telly
- G159...Billy The Dragon
- G160...I-Ching
- G161...E-Type
- G162...TomCat
- G163...Sea Lance
- G164...Dizzy Diamonds

- G165...No Mans Land
- G166...Word Square Solver
- G167...Cross Fire
- G168...Wastelands
- G170...Space Blitz
- G171...Crazy Sue
- G172...Make A Break
- G173...Squamble
- G174...F-1 Challenge
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- G178...Evil Dead Game
- G179...Trainset
- G180-181...P Comps 1+2
- G182...Diplomacy
- G183...Tractor Beam
- G184...Motor Duel
- G185...Game Boy Tetris 2
- G186...Water Works
- G187...Act Of War
- G188...Mutants Games
- G189-193...Timelords 1-5
- G194...Nirvana
- G195-196...Neighbours (2)
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- G198...Game Boy Tetris 1
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- G204...Ashido
- G205...Cheats Disk 2
- G206...Cheats Disk 3
- G208...Airport
- G209...F.R.A.C.
- G210...The Golden Fleece
- G211...Legend Of Lothian
- G212-214...Timelords 6-8
- G215...Amos Games 1
- G216...Super Sid
- G217...Light Bikes
- G218...Relayer
- G219...Air Hockey
- G220...Amos Child Quiz
- G221...Texas Chainsaw
- G222...Routledge
- G223...Premier Pies
- G224...Thrust Duel
- G225...Wibble Giddy
- G226...Super Pong
- G227...Fruit Salad
- G228...Brainbow
- G229...Jeopard
- G230...Space Invasion
- G231...Karate Worm
- G232...Super League Manager
- G233...PD City Comp 1
- G234...Colour Changes
- G235...Battle Of Britain
- G236...Super Twintix
- G237...Castle
- G238...Numtris (+ Only)
- G239...Kung Fu Charles
- G242...Micro Market
- G243...Blood Runner

SLIDES

- S1...Ham Pies Show 1
- S4...Madonna slides
- S5...Moviestar slides
- S6...Party Disaster
- S8...Immaculate Collection
- S9...Simpsons Slides
- S10-11...Channel 42 (2)
- S12...Bruce Lee Slides
- S14...Adams Family
- S15...Viz Mag Slides
- S17...Docklands Jarr
- S18...Dr Who Demo
- S20...Nasa Slides
- S22-24...WWF Slides (3)
- S27...Demons Slides
- S28...Total Recall
- S29...Joe's Slides
- S30...Ham Pies Show 2
- S32...Neighbours Slides
- S33...Roger Dean slides
- S34...Iron Maiden Slides
- S35-36...Tobias Richter (2)
- S38...Basket case 2
- S39...Eces Slides
- S40...Fraxion Devine 2
- S41...Fraxion Devine 1
- S42...Golems Gate Slides
- S43...Chainsaw Slippers
- S44...Cry For Dawn
- S45...Forgotten Realms (2)
- S47...Kick Off 3 Slides
- S48...PD Slideshow
- S49-52...Terminator (4)
- S53...Robocop 2 Slides
- S54...Trackmaster Slides
- S55...Forgotten Realms 2
- S56...Garfield Slides
- S57...Pawbreaker Slides
- S58...Hellraiser Slides
- S59...Night Breed Slides
- S60...Raytracing
- S61...Horror Slides
- S70...Music Mania
- S71...Creature Comforts
- S72...The Wonder Years
- S73...Watership Down
- S75...Ferrari 348 Pics
- S76...Belinda Carlisle
- S77...Cher Slides

- S79...Freddie's Dead
- S80...Wendy James Slides
- S81...The Invisible World
- S82-83...Terminator 2 (2)
- S84...Fantasy Pies
- S85...Gulf War Slides
- S86...Magical Pies
- S88...Gulf War Tribute
- S89-90...S/Thing Fishy (2)
- S91...Eldorado Slides

ANIMS

- A1...Probe Sequence
- A2...Ghost Pool
- A3...Jogger + Magician 1
- A4...Gymnast Demo
- A5...Fractal Flight
- A6...Basketball Demo
- A8...Walker Demo
- A9...Magician 2
- A10...Pugs In Space
- A11...Luxor Teenager
- A13...Juggler Demo
- A16...Cool Cougar
- A17...Mono Cycle Anim
- A18...Robocop Anim
- A20...Mayhem On Wheels
- A21...Jugette 2
- A22...Shuttlecock Anim
- A23...T-Pot Anim
- A27...Fleet Manoeuvre
- A28...Billiard Anim
- A29...E/Prise Leaves Dock
- A30...Starwars 2 Anim
- A31...Star Trek Anim
- A32...Fraxion revenge
- A34...Madonna Anim
- A35...Stealthy Anims 2
- A36...Raiders Of The L/Ark
- A37...Bugs Bunny Show
- A38...Iraq V's UK Anim
- A39...Mike Tyson anim
- A42...Walker 2
- A43...Walker 3
- A45-46...Light Cycle (2)
- A47...Exploding Head
- A48...Police Car Chase
- A49...Top Gun Demo
- A50...Animators Demo
- A51...5 Ways To Kill a Mole
- A52...Another 5 Ways
- A53...Batman The movie
- A54...3D Spaceship
- A55...Mr Potato Head
- A59...Low Level Flight
- A63...Amy V's Walker
- A64...Real Pinball Anim
- A66...Porky Pig Anim
- A67...Adventures Of Chuck
- A70-71...Max Overdrive (2)
- A73...Spaceship Anim
- A74...Ghostbusters + Horse
- A76...Alarm Anim
- A77...Flight Anim
- A78...Piano Anim
- A79...Dart Anim
- A80...Bad Bird Anim
- A81...Holiday Anim
- A82...Fillet The Fish
- A85...Miners Anim
- A86...Pocket Watch Anim
- A90-93...The Movies 2 (4)
- A95...My TinToy
- A96...T-Pot 2 Anim
- A99...Terminator 3
- A100...Dolphin Dreams
- A101/102...Thunderbirds (2)
- A103...History of Amy
- A104...Pogo Anim (2 Meg)

EDUCATION

- E1...Education Pack 1
- E2...Education Pack 2
- E3...Education Pack 3
- E4...Education Pack 4
- E5...Education Pack 5
- E6...Education Pack 6
- E7...Educational Worlds 1
- E8...Educational Games
- E9...Math Drill
- E10...Amiga Function Com
- E11...Devware Ed Comp
- E12...Simon Says + S Maths
- E13...Kids Paint
- E14...Storyland 2
- E15...Colour 1
- E16...Colour The Alphabet
- E17...D.T.P. For Children
- E18...Algebra
- E19...Amosagram
- E20...Animal Land!
- E21...Animal Sounds
- E22...Military War Sounds
- E23...Vehicles Sounds
- E24/25...Read & Learn 1 (2)
- E26...Junior Maths

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BUSINESS PACK 2

CD-ROM

how to get it connected to your Amiga

As the popularity of CD-ROMs increases, John Kennedy looks at how you can gain access to these shiny 600Mb discs no matter what Amiga you own.

First came the CDTV, but the world wasn't ready. An Amiga in a black hifi box with a CD player? What would I want one of those for? Then came the CD32, and this time the world was ready. A games console that has an Amiga inside? Where can I get one? Both machines have something in common – they both use CD-ROM technology which can store huge amounts of information. One important point though: CD-ROMS might look exactly the same as audio CDs, but they won't work in your midi system.

CD-ROMS

A single CD-ROM disk can contain about 600Mb of uncompressed data, which is roughly as much information as about 600 floppy disks. Each disk only costs a few pounds to manufacture and are sold for about £20. Compare that to a 600Mb hard drive which would set you back about £600.

Before we go any further, some very important points need to be made. In the same way that not all floppy disks will work on different computer systems, not all CD-ROM systems are compatible. You can't

buy a game marked CDi and expect to run it on an Amiga; for exactly the same reason you can't buy a PC version of a game and expect to run that on an Amiga either. It might be possible to read the data on the disk (all disks use the ISO9660 standard), but that's not always good enough.

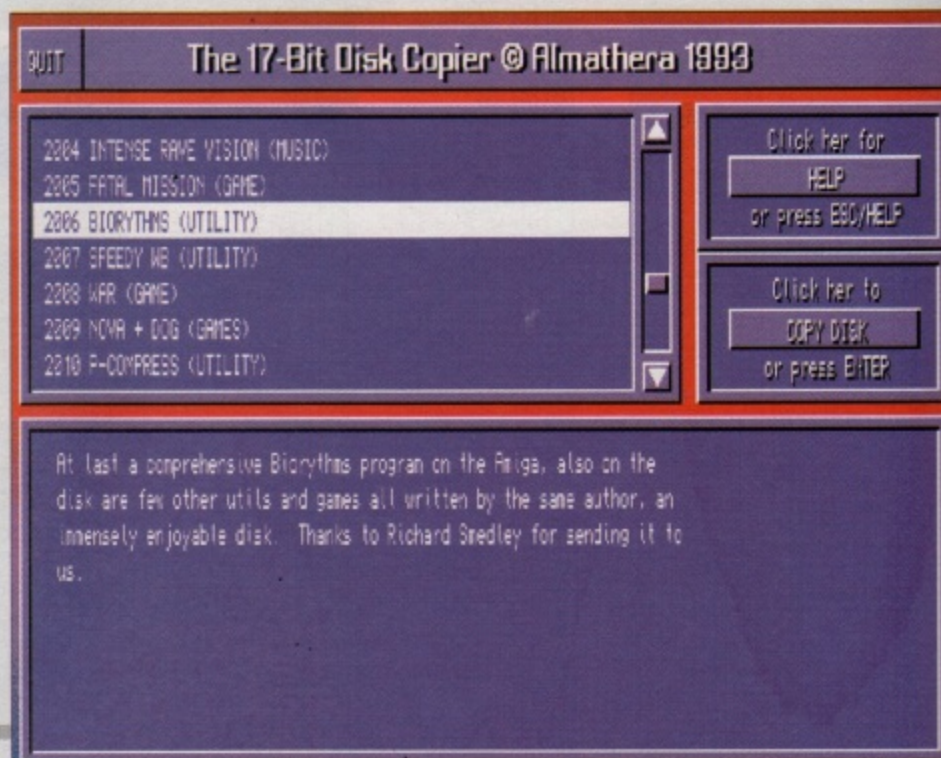
For example, using *CrossDOS* you can examine the contents of any

17-Bit Software were one of the first companies off the mark to supply software on CD. PC disk. You can copy the files over onto your own computer disks, but you can't run the programs. PC and Amiga computers use completely different processors and so the programs themselves are completely incompatible.

For similar reasons, games sold on CD for the CD32 (and CDTV if you can find any) won't always work on other hardware platforms. Games for the CD32 are very likely to use the AGA chipset, and the CD32 also has the unique AKIKO graphics chip. Adding a CD-ROM player to an A1200 or A4000 will probably not enable games to run, unless they are specifically designed to do so.

Therefore, avoid buying CD32/TV specific software for an Amiga fitted with a normal CD-ROM drive. However, in some rare instances, you might be lucky – *Turrican II* runs if you disable CPU caches and start it from the shell, but generally the

The PlayCD utility is used to control the playback of standard audio CD's. The music comes either through the headphone jack at the front of the player, or through the Amiga's integral mixer if you have an A4000.





odds are stacked against you. Until Commodore bring out those mythical CD-ROM drives for the A4000 there is no way to guarantee that CD32 games or FMV video disks will work with non-CD32 hardware.

PC-based CDROM software is also hard to use. None of the programs will work (unless you are running an emulator) but any standard data files might be useful. Fonts for example, can usually be used. Similarly, if you have a good image processing program such as AdPro you should be able to read and display any images.

PLAYERS

Before you can use any CDs, you'll need a suitable CD player. Using an

Each of these drawers contains dozens of programs, all archived - it will take weeks to look at everything. This is only a fraction of the contents of one disk.

old audio player simply isn't on - you need a dedicated computer peripheral. Once you have managed to get a drive connected, the ROM will look like any other disk drive to the Amiga's system. An icon appears on your Workbench, and all the files inside it are available for copying or clicking - just like a gigantic floppy disk. The only difference is, of course, that the drive is write protected: CD-ROMs are read only with current (affordable) technology.

There are two main standards used to connect CDROM drives to computers. It doesn't really make much difference which you use, as the drive itself will behave in exactly the same way.

The simplest interface is good old SCSI, the standard we all waved goodbye to with the introduction of the A1200 and A4000. A SCSI compatible CD-ROM player can be connected to any standard SCSI port, and with the correct driving software will work perfectly.

The second way to use a drive is to make use of a PC standard. It's very common for PC drives to come with their own interface cards which fit into a vacant slot. Unfortunately, unless you have a bridgeboard fitted (and getting hold of one of those can be a nightmare) this won't do you much good. Thankfully, *bsc/Alfadata* have brought out a suitable card, which means that the most popular PC drives can now be connected to any 'big box' Amiga.

But what if you don't have a SCSI interface or a Zorro slot? Well, A500 owners are lucky - they can buy the official Commodore A570 CDROM drive for about £99. The A500 Plus will support it without modification, but the original A500 will need a minor operation to upgrade its Agnus chip.

A600 and A1200 owners are the ones who'll suffer the most, because getting a SCSI interface can prove extremely difficult. Basically, if you have an A600 you're stuck until »

JARGON BUSTERS

BIG BOX AMIGA: Slang term for an Amiga which contains Zorro expansion card slots, namely the A1500, A2000, A3000 or A4000 and the various tower systems. **CDTV:** The 'Commodore Dynamic Total Vision' was the first CD-based Amiga. Unfortunately, it wasn't the amazing success Commodore had hoped for, but it paved the way for the CD32.

SINGLE SPEED: CD-ROM drives work at a standard data transfer rate of about 150K per second. In other words, the Amiga can load about 153,600 characters per second from the drive. This is faster than floppy, but a good deal slower than a hard drive.

DOUBLE SPEED: As you might guess, a double speed CD-ROM drive will transfer data at about 300K per second. Triple and quadruple drives are available, but at the moment the performance isn't really worth the extra cost.

SCSI: The Small Computer Systems Interface standard, which allows to up seven SCSI-compatible devices (such as harddrives, optical drives or CDROM drives) to be connected with a host system.

MULTISESSION: Occasionally individual CDs contain information added after the initial pressing. In order to access this data, the drive and software need to have multi-session capabilities.

ISO9660: The standard protocol for storing computer information on a CD. The catch is that although the data can be accessed, it might not be useful to the particular computer system reading it.

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Mannesmann Tally 80/81	3.90	3.75	3.55	3.35	Star LC10/20/100	6.00	5.85	5.65	5.25
NEC Pinwriter P2200	3.03	2.88	2.68	2.48	Star LC200	9.78	9.63	9.43	9.03
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» someone (bsc/alfadata perhaps?) comes up with a PCMCIA SCSI interface. Several A1200 trapdoor expansion systems feature SCSI expansion options which are worth taking up. In the meantime, both of these machines can be connected to a CDTV player. Many High Street retailers are current selling these machines off at bargain prices, and they are well worth getting. For your £100-£200, you'll get a superb box containing a 1Mb A500 plus, a CDROM player which doubles as a music system, a disk drive, mouse and keyboard. CDTV peripherals are still available and its possible to add all sorts of SCSI hard drives, genlocks and trackballs.

However, the inclusion of standard parallel and serial ports at the back of the CDTV's case is very interesting. A normal ParNet cable can be attached here, and connected to a host Amiga, an A600 for example. With ParNet running, the CDTV's CD-ROM drive can be accessed as a standard AmigaDOS drive called CD0: See the February 1994 issue of CU AMIGA for the ParNet program and details on linking machines with it.

SOFTWARE

You might be wondering what the point of having a CD-ROM drive is if you can't actually run any CD32 or CDTV software. Consider this: Do you like PD software? Buy a couple of disks every so often? So how much would it cost you to get 600 floppy disks worth? Quite a bit, eh? How would you feel about a single CD-ROM, costing about £20, which contains all 600 floppy disks – or more – and all instantly available for you? With one disk you can immediately recoup the cost of the player, the interface – even a new CDTV player!

Okay, there is bound to be some crossover of programs between these disks, but it's not as bad as you might think.

Several PD collections are stored using standard Amiga archivers, which means that they end up holding far more than the 600Mb a normal CD-ROM can.

If a CD contains archived data, you'll need access to a floppy or hard drive in order to decompress it, so don't expect it to work on a standalone CDTV or CD32. For example, The 17 Bit Collection requires a floppy drive, so a CDTV and external floppy or a CD-ROM fitted to a big box Amiga is required.

All disks containing compressed programs come with the decompressing software ready to use. **CU**

CD-ROM SUPPLIERS

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5HQ. Tel: 0272 760600

AMINET COLLECTIONS

The electronic Internet system has a huge archive of Amiga software, much of which is not available elsewhere. This disk contains the Amiga site files and a few other collections too. It is perfect for the more serious Amiga user, interested in utilities as well as games and demos. All programs are compressed, usually with LHA.

CDPD vol 1

This disk contains the famous Fred Fish Amiga public domain collection, or at least disks number 1 to 660 from it. There is so much stuff here it will take years to look at it all. £19.99, 17 Bit Software (Tel:0924 366 982.)

CDPD vol 2

More Fish disks (661 - 760) and the SCOPE collection (1-220) of PD disks and the AB archives. £19.99, 17 Bit Software (Tel:0924 366 982.)

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Filled with the Fish disks 761-880, along with HAM and AGA mode images and the complete text from several books. £19.99, 17 Bit Software (Tel:0924 366 982.)

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These disks make a perfect introduction to CD software as they don't require any expert knowledge. DEMO CD 2

More click-and-go fun, with over 6000 sound samples. £19.99, 17 Bit Software (Tel:0924 366 982.)

LOCK AND LOAD

A forthcoming collection of games from the States, more details when we get a copy. £19.99, 17 Bit Software (Tel:0924 366 982.)

PANDORA'S CD

A demo of multimedia applications, which doesn't work very well on non-CDTV platforms. However, the disk is still crammed with high quality images and sounds and at this price it's a real bargain. £4.95 Redlaw Resources (Tel: 0272 760600)

THE 17 BIT COLLECTION

Disks 1 to 2301 from 17 Bit's own Public Domain library on a two disk set. Each disk is archived separately using DME and the supplied file-manager program will expand each the original floppy. £39.99, 17 Bit Software (Tel:0924 366 982.)

THE 17 BIT CONTINUATION

This single disk volume contains disks 2302 to 2800, along with the Assassins game disks - see the review elsewhere in this issue for more details. £19.99, 17 Bit Software (Tel:0924 366 982.)

THE MULTIMEDIA TOOLKIT

A disk filled with images (Ham, Ham8 and 24-bit) clipart, music, fonts and sound samples. Useful for all sorts of non-commercial DTP and Hyperbook-type projects. £19.99, 17 Bit Software (Tel:0924 366 982.)

HDInstTools © 1992, 1993 bsc bureauautomation AG

Devices in System

PIC	TID	LUN	Manufacturer	Name	Status
				Connor 170Mb	

Setup drive...

Save changes to drive...

File System...

DOS Format...

Partition drive...

Copy disks...

The Tandem controller card can also be used to interface standard IDE hard drives to the Amiga. The supplied set-up software looks like Commodore's own HDToolBox and does a similar job of prepping and formatting new drives.

Tandem Controller Card

Cheap PC CD-ROM drives are everywhere, but until now, there was no way you could use one with your Amiga. Plug in the Tandem controller card, and your choice of available CD-ROM drives becomes wider than the Panama canal.

Amiga owners lucky enough to have a spare Zorro II or III slot can now get the same sort of facilities as PC owners, courtesy of long-time peripheral manufacturers bsc/Alfadata.

This dual-purpose card is a half-height circuit board, the most interesting thing about it is its two 40-pin connectors which suitable ribbon cables can be plugged into.

One set of pins is actually a full IDE hard drive interface, as used in the Amiga 1200 and Amiga 4000.

Now, any big box Amiga can make use of up to two relatively cheap 3.5 inch IDE hard



You can get the entire 17 Bit Software collection (disks 1 to 2800) as well as some other collections on three CD-ROMs for £60. If you ordered the disks individually you would need an extremely large box to put them all in, not to mention a fat wallet.

17 BIT

Collection for CDTV

© Almathera 1993

drives, and A4000 owners can actually use four – if there is room inside the case for them all.

Getting hold of an IDE interface for the Amiga has been rather difficult of late, and this card is certainly the cheapest option around.

Using the Tandem on the A4000 to control the existing IDE drives actually speeds up transfer rates a little. A Connor drive jumped from 477,000 to 886,000 bytes per second which was a nice bonus. Another bonus is the support for the IDE Syquest SQ3105A which might set you back £500-£600 but uses £80 removable 105Mb cartridges.

The second connector on the Tandem card is even more interesting – it's a PC style CDROM interface for Mitsumi LU005 and FX001 drives. These drives are extremely popular with clone owners, and getting hold of them definitely isn't a problem.

Attaching your hardware isn't difficult: fitting the cabling is as easy as tying a shoe lace. Mounting the hardware is another problem, but again it's not particularly hard unless you have an A4000.

SOFTWARE

The interface hardware is only half the fun, as it takes some pretty clever software to introduce AmigaDOS to the world of CD-ROMs.

The Tandem installation procedure automatically sticks all the software you need onto your system disk, and when you place a CD-ROM disk in the player's tray up it pops on the Workbench. There's no fuss running ParNet or weird CLI commands, it simply whirrs a tad and you're ready to go.

The file system is fast and efficient and you soon forget that the CD-ROM drive is anything special – it's just another icon on your Workbench.

Unfortunately, the software only supports single session disks, but that is a situation which is bound to change with any future upgrades.

MUSIC

A little program called PlayCD is a bonus that will help while away those long hours spend word processing, or whatever it is you do with your Amiga in private. PlayCD allows you to stick a normal audion CD in the drive and provides a CD player window to operate it. The music is relayed through the CD-ROM drive's audio interface which

means that you can listen on headphones whilst your Amiga is compiling your latest C program.

The only drawback is the lack of ARexx support, which would have opened the system up to some real multimedia applications.

CONCLUSION

The price of this card might seem relatively low, but bear in mind that a similar card for a PC would cost about £20. And the low-chip count means that even at £70 the Tandem is over-priced from a hardware point of view.

If you plan on using it to add a hard drive to your system, bear in mind it is a half height card, with nowhere to physically mount a drive. The software support is good though – although a few more utilities and multi-session wouldn't go amiss – and the bonus of a good IDE hard drive interface means the Tandem is a card that has been eagerly awaited.

Hidden in the documentation is talk of a PCMCIA card version which, if it ever saw the light of day, would revolutionise the A1200 and A600 expansion market. **CU**

Note: Gasteiner (tel: 081 345 6000) sell the Tandem card and a Mitsumi CD-ROM drive together

See next month's CU AMIGA where we review more CD-ROM drives in depth.

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AMIGA **84%**

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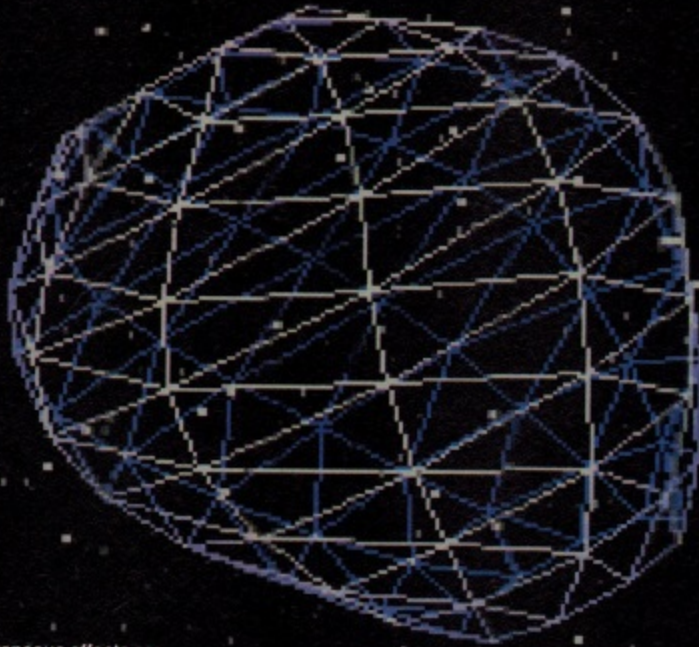
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Demomaniac



Up to six simultaneous effects are promised in the release version of DemoManiac. This screen is made up of just two - the starfield and wicker basket over the top.

"Power to the people!", as Citizen Smith would say. That's what Demo Maniac's all about - the power to perform cunning stunts of technical trickery, without having to learn the ins and outs of complex assembler programming. All of the effects on this page, and plenty more besides, are available to beginners.



Light-sourced vectors are just one of the many built-in effects that will be included with the final release of DemoManiac.

with dedicated animation and ray-tracing packages has huge potential.

DemoManiac should be available by the time you read this. Look out for the full review in the next issue. **CU**

For a free information pack, write to CU DemoManiac Infopack, Black Legend UK Ltd, Fulving Mill Barn, Mill Lane, Welwyn, Herts, AL6 9NP. Tel: 0438 840003. Price: £25.99.

FABULOUS FEATURES

- * Compatible with all Amigas (1.3 A500 up to A4000/D40), with auto-AGA detection
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- * 20 variable effects
- * Up to 6 simultaneous effects
- * Provision for additional effects disks
- * Ability to incorporate original effects written in assembler

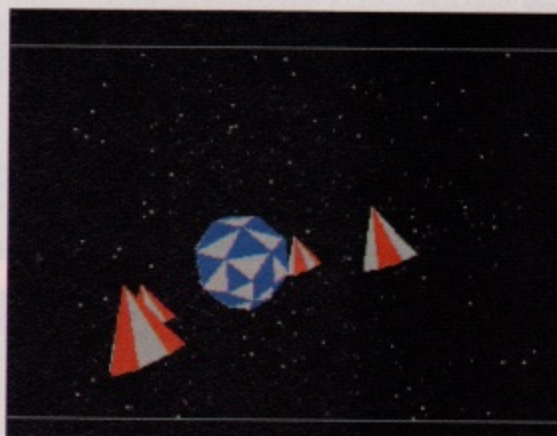
with a pre-release version, but as you can see, even at this stage it's capable of producing some impressive visuals. The best part is that none of this involved even touching the keyboard, everything was compiled using just the mouse.

Simplicity is the key. The idea is that you pick your effect from the list provided, tweak its speed, colours and other parameters, then grab another effect from the list to add to the first until you get it just the way you want it to be.

Your own logos, pictures and animations created with your favourite art package can also be loaded in too, and mixed up with the rest of the demo. IFF sound effects and tracker modules can then be added, in complete sync with all of your visuals.

VIDEO VIRTUOSO

DemoManiac could be just the ticket for adventurous DIY video producers. Whereas other video effects software can be sluggish and slow, all of the effects here are generated in real time, and the ability to mix these with animations created



This is where most of the work goes on. Click on a slot in the top box, then pick your effect from the list below, simple as that.

We've all seen demos that do amazing things with the Amiga; spewing out psychedelic colours, taking us on trips through the galaxies, and pumping out pounding tunes. The trouble is, behind the hypnotic graphics and sounds are years of experience in programming the Amiga. You can't learn how to code real time bitmap zooms at 50Hz from a book - sweat, toil and plenty of ingenuity are essential if you want to cut it in the world of demos, but now that could all change, with the release of DemoManiac, potentially the most powerful piece of demo development software yet seen.

All of the graphics on this page were created

Whole vector landscapes can be created from smaller objects. A vector designer will be included with the main program.

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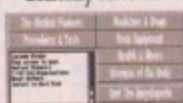
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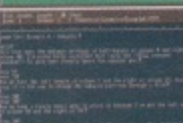
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ASI 125 Nungame, Bally 2, Mushi command etc!
ASI 126 Short, Bally 2, Mushi command etc!
ASI 127 Snake, Bally 2, Mushi command etc!
ASI 128 Space, Bally 2, Mushi command etc!
ASI 130 Chain, Bally 2, Mushi command etc!
ASI 134 Cross, Bally 2, Mushi command etc!
ASI 135 Gna, Bally 2, Mushi command etc!
ASI 137 Blocker, Bally 2, Mushi command etc!
ASI 138 Galaxoid, Bally 2, Mushi command etc!
ASI 140 Fata, Bally 2, Mushi command etc!
ASI 141 Bili, Bally 2, Mushi command etc!
ASI 142 Randa, Bally 2, Mushi command etc!
ASI 143 Bams, Bally 2, Mushi command etc!
ASI 144 Brain, Bally 2, Mushi command etc!
ASI 145 Pym, Bally 2, Mushi command etc!
ASI 146 Bally 2, Mushi command etc!
ASI 147 Bally 2, Mushi command etc!
ASI 148 Pym, Bally 2, Mushi command etc!
ASI 149 Gna, Bally 2, Mushi command etc!
ASI 150 D, Bally 2, Mushi command etc!
ASI 151 Killion, Bally 2, Mushi command etc!
ASI 152 Killion, Bally 2, Mushi command etc!
ASI 153 Killion, Bally 2, Mushi command etc!
ASI 154 Killion, Bally 2, Mushi command etc!
ASI 155 Killion, Bally 2, Mushi command etc!
ASI 156 Killion, Bally 2, Mushi command etc!

LATEST ASSASSINS

Always in stock. We currently have from 1-158 in stock!

COMPTON PRO COMMERCIAL CLIPART!

This is a brand new range of clipart designed exclusively for Amiga! These images are of very high quality and detail and are priced at £3.50 per disk. All images are in 16/24/32/48/64/96/128/160/192/256/320/384/512/640/768/1024/1280/1536/2048/2560/3072/3840/4096/5120/6144/7680/8192/10240/12288/15360/18432/20480/24576/28672/32768/36864/40960/45056/49152/53248/57344/61440/65536/69632/73728/77824/81920/86016/90112/94208/98304/102400/106496/110592/114688/118784/122880/126976/131072/135168/139264/143360/147456/151552/155648/159744/163840/167936/172032/176128/180224/184320/188416/192512/196608/200704/204800/208896/212992/217088/221184/225280/229376/233472/237568/241664/245760/249856/253952/258048/262144/266240/270336/274432/278528/282624/286720/290816/294912/299008/303104/307200/311296/315392/319488/323584/327680/331776/335872/339968/344064/348160/352256/356352/360448/364544/368640/372736/376832/380928/385024/389120/393216/397312/401408/405504/409600/413696/417792/421888/425984/430080/434176/438272/442368/446464/450560/454656/458752/462848/466944/471040/475136/479232/483328/487424/491520/495616/499712/503808/507904/512000/516096/520192/524288/528384/532480/536576/540672/544768/548864/552960/557056/561152/565248/569344/573440/577536/581632/585728/589824/593920/598016/602112/606208/610304/614400/618496/622592/626688/630784/634880/638976/643072/647168/651264/655360/659456/663552/667648/671744/675840/679936/684032/688128/692224/696320/700416/704512/708608/712704/716800/720896/724992/729088/733184/737280/741376/745472/749568/753664/757760/761856/765952/770048/774144/778240/782336/786432/790528/794624/798720/802816/806912/811008/815104/819200/823296/827392/831488/835584/839680/843776/847872/851968/856064/860160/864256/868352/872448/876544/880640/884736/888832/892928/897024/901120/905216/909312/913408/917504/921600/925696/929792/933888/937984/942080/946176/950272/954368/958464/962560/966656/970752/974848/978944/983040/987136/991232/995328/999424/1003520/1007616/1011712/1015808/1019904/1024000/1028096/1032192/1036288/1040384/1044480/1048576/1052672/1056768/1060864/1064960/1069056/1073152/1077248/1081344/1085440/1089536/1093632/1097728/1101824/1105920/1110016/1114112/1118208/1122304/1126400/1130496/1134592/1138688/1142784/1146880/1150976/1155072/1159168/1163264/1167360/1171456/1175552/1179648/1183744/1187840/1191936/1196032/1200128/1204224/1208320/1212416/1216512/1220608/1224704/1228800/1232896/1236992/1241088/1245184/1249280/1253376/1257472/1261568/1265664/1269760/1273856/1277952/1282048/1286144/1290240/1294336/1298432/1302528/1306624/1310720/1314816/1318912/1323008/1327104/1331200/1335296/1339392/1343488/1347584/1351680/1355776/1359872/1363968/

Peripherals

Not the imitators!

CLASSIC CLIPART

Black & White (okay on A1200 / A4000.)

Clipart in this collection is very high quality, many images, many greater than on other clipart screens, some in DTP packages, each disk contains

slideshow allowing you to view the entire library of images! (Prices per disk)

WEDDINGS Super wedding clipart, 2 disks

HOLIDAYS 2 disks, pictures of holidays etc.

RELIGIOUS 3 disks full of holy clipart

WHL AIRCRAFT World war II planes

MEN 2 disks full of men at work

WOMEN 2 disks full of women clipart

KIDS 2 disks containing kids clipart

OFFICE Another office type clipart

STUDENTS Lots of student type clipart

SALETIME Many useful logos etc.

XMAS 1 disk of Xmas related clipart

PUNCH 3 disks of cartoon pics

ANIMALS Fantastic quality pictures

CATS Only 12 pics but super quality

SILBOUETTES 18 super silhouettes

SCHOOLS 3 disks of school pictures

SPORTS 2 disks full of sport pictures

OLYMPIC Another sport type disk

MEDICAL 2 disks full of medical clipart

SEALIFE Pictures from the Ocean

DECORATIVE MONTHS 1 for every month

WACKY Funny comic type clipart

HOLIDAYS Holiday type pictures

BANNERS 2 disks full of banners

ART NOUVEAU FLOWERS Floral art

BUTTERFLIES Nice pictures

FOOD 2 disks on food/health themes

COLORING BOOK Colour in Pictures

SCENERY 3 disks, most land in DTP

MAC CLIP 2 disks high quality macart

HORNBARK New scenic clipart

TEDDY BEARS 2 disks of Teddy bears

FAIRY FAIR 2 disks of fairies etc.

HALLOWEEN CLIPART Word clipart

SHOWTIME Dancing, singing etc.

VEGETABLES Vegetables clipart

FLORAL 14 very detailed pictures

MYTHS Mythical images - medical images

DOG WOODCUTS Super 300dpi pics

AFRICAN WOODCUTS Great african pics

AFRICAN WOODCUTS African animals

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COLOURED CLIPART

This is a superb collection of coloured clipart, mostly in Ham mode (4096 colours), though some is in 16 colours. Can be loaded into Deluxe Paint 4 or any other package accepting Ham pictures! (OK on 500, 500+, 600, 1200 & 4000!)

COL001 MAPS, Algebratan - Botswana, autoboots! +Y

COL002 MAPS, Brazil - Checoslovakia, autoboots! +Y

COL003 MAPS, Denmark - Grenada, hires map! +Y

COL004 MAPS, Gussel - Illinois, hires map! +Y

COL005 MAPS, India - Luxembourg, hires map! +Y

COL006 MAPS, Macau - Malawi, hires map! +Y

COL007 MAPS, Morocco - New York, hires map! +Y

COL008 MAPS, Neutral Zone - Iraq - S. Dakota

COL009 MAPS, Senegal - Tunesia, autoboots! +Y

COL010 MAPS, Texas - Zimbabwe, autoboots! +Y

COL011 REPTILES, good pictures, autoboots! +Y

COL012 ACTORS, famous faces, autoboots! +Y

COL015 AIRCRAFT & CARS assorted, autoboots! +Y

COL018 BIRDS 8 disks, Super, autoboots! +Y

COL020 CATS, 1-16 Super cat pics, autoboots! +Y

COL025 DOGS, 1-16 Super dog pics, autoboots! +Y

COL036 EXPLORERS 1-13 famous explorers, autoboots! +Y

COL037 FISH 1-92 Super fish pictures, (4 disks) +Y

COL041 FLOWERS 11 disks of flowers! (11 disks) +Y

COL042 FRUIT 3 disks, Good pics! (2 autoboots) +Y

COL055 FRONTIER 1-13 Pioneer pictures, autoboots! +Y

COL056 HORSES 1-16 Great horse pics, autoboots! (2) +Y

COL058 INSECTS Small creatures! (4 disks) +Y

COL063 INVENTORS 5 disks full of! +Y

COL064/71 MAMMALS More animals pictures! (8 disks) +Y

COL072 INSTRUMENTS 4-25 Musical (2 disks) +Y

COL073 MUSICIANS 1-17 MUSICIANS (1 disk) +Y

COL075 MUSICIANS 9-21 Classical music! +Y

COL076 PREHISTORIC Dinosaurs! (2) autoboots! +Y

COL078 PEOPLE Lots of people! (4 disks) +Y

COL082A PRESIDENTS 1-40 USA presidents (3 disks) +Y

COL089 REPTILES 1-19 Good reptiles! (1) autoboots! +Y

COL088 SHIPS 10-30 Maritime images! +Y

COL090 SPORTSMEN Various sportsmen, autoboots! +Y

COL091 TREES, 6 disks of tree pictures! autoboots! +Y

COL0910 VEGETABLES 1-48 Good veggie disks, w/v +Y

COLOUR BRUSH CLIPART

Saved as brushes so they can be pulled easily into DPaint!

CB001 Lots of brushes on an art & schoolwork theme.

CB002 Lots of brushes of stores food, garden, home & more!

CB003 Lots of brushes on a sporting theme (142 brushes) +Y

CB004 Lots of brushes on a food & confectionery theme! +Y

CB005 Lots of brushes, 155 pics on a financial theme.

CB006 Lots of brushes of cute cartoon characters! +Y

AMIGA MUSIC DISKS!

PM001 100 GREATEST 64 TUNES 100 best 64 tunes!

PM002 AMIGA PARTY WINNERS Four WICKED songs +Y

PM003 BEATLES SONIX Nice music +Y

PM004 MAC FIELDS CHIP FESTIVAL Full of chip music!

PM005 MANIACS OF NOISE This is brilliant!

PM006 SOUND OF SILENCE Just get this! It's magic!

PM007 PIANO TUNES Nine piano songs - good +Y

PM008 STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN Rendition of the song +Y

PM009 500 THINGS COMEBACK 4 great rave type tracks!

PM010 TECH MANIA 8 essential hardwired tunes!

PM011 PLAYLIST 2 (3) You must get this! +Y

PM012 PLAYLIST 1 (3) You must get this! +Y

PM013 JESUS ON ES Crazy rave music demo! (2) +Y

PM014 JESUS ON ES Crazy rave music demo! (2) +Y

PM015 JESUS ON ES Crazy rave music demo! (2) +Y

PM016 JESUS ON ES Crazy rave music demo! (2) +Y

PM017 JESUS ON ES Crazy rave music demo! (2) +Y

PM018 JESUS ON ES Crazy rave music demo! (2) +Y

PM019 JESUS ON ES Crazy rave music demo! (2) +Y

PM020 JESUS ON ES Crazy rave music demo! (2) +Y

PM021 JESUS ON ES Crazy rave music demo! (2) +Y

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PM028 JESUS ON ES Crazy rave music demo! (2) +Y

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PM031 JESUS ON ES Crazy rave music demo! (2) +Y

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AMIGA

BACK ISSUES



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AMIGA

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2x 127Mb HD	£499
2x 200Mb HD	£549
2x 340Mb HD	£699



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2x Trils AGA	
2x Nigel Mansell's World Championship AGA	
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AMIGA 4000 SPECIFICATIONS



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25MHz 68040Lc	£1199
25MHz 68040Lc	£1499

25MHz 68040	£1649
25MHz 68040	£1899

NEW! AA CHIPSET

AMIGA 4000 CONFIGURATIONS

The Amiga 4000 030EC, 040LC and 040 SCSI Tower are available in several RAM/Hard Drive options from Silica (please see below). All are fully configured and approved and carry Commodore's full one year on-site warranty. RAM upgrades are also available from Silica. Due to current fluctuations in the market, please call for upgrade prices.

25MHz 68030Ec	£999
25MHz 68040Lc	£1099
25MHz 68040Lc	£1199
25MHz 68040Lc	£1499

25MHz 68040	£1649
25MHz 68040	£1899

25MHz 68040	£1649
25MHz 68040	£1899

25MHz 68040	£1649
25MHz 68040	£1899

25MHz 68040	£1649
25MHz 68040	£1899

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RAM UPGRADES CALL FOR PRICES

CDTV ADD-ON FOR A500 or A500Plus



A570 UPGRADE

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• Enables your Amiga 500 to run CDTV software
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• Compatible with ISO9660 standard
• Some old A500s need modification - call for details

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CDT 1205 - MUD PUDDLE	£14.99
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CDT 1207 - THOMAS' SNOWSUIT	£14.99

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PD

Right, now you've arrived, can we begin? Resident demo fan Tony Horgan takes you through the fun side of this month's public domain mailbag.



FULL MOON demo

Bit of a fave in the office, this one from Virtual Dreams. If you like your visual effects on the trippy side, this should be right up your global highway. First up is a very smooth and relaxing intro that takes you on a slow helicopter ride around some mountains. Then, after an excellent fire effect, it's off to a Wolfenstein-type 3D maze, with slick texture-mapped walls. After that there's a rotating dot-landscape and an unentertaining vector sequence, but it picks up again with some good 3D sine-lines. Liquid plasma of the highest order crops up next, followed by some brain-melting bitmap contortions. Yummy - I love it.

Available from: Visage Computers, 18 Station Road, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, DE7 5LD.

Tel: 0602 444501. Price: £2.00 including P+P. AGA only.

90%

ARTE demo

What a feast! If you're one of those people who loves wibbly colours and trippy 3D effects, you're going to love this one from Sanity. First up is a neat 3D tunnel, made up of real time-scaled texture maps. Next, is an impressive bit of Dali-style art, plenty more of which crops up throughout the demo. After some more 3D zooms and a spherical text scroller, there's a spot-on blurred tunnel sequence, followed by a slimy bitmap contortion-rotation thing.

Then comes the best bit for me: a gorgeous blurred plasma effect that zooms and pulses in and out of the screen. The brain-zapping continues with yet more indescribable colour patterns and effects, and finishes off with a 3D vector sequence. Funky guitar licks give the soundtrack a boost, and the continual Dali tributes add a bit of style to the whole thing. Another essential disk for the visually-stimulated.

Available from: 17 Bit, 1st Floor Offices, 2/8 Market Street, Wakefield, West Yorks, WF1 1DH. Tel: 0924 366982. Disk no. 2968. Price: £2.00 including P+P.

90%



SCENE



SEVEN SEAS slideshow

We've seen some brilliant AGA slideshows recently. This one from Andromeda isn't the best, but there are some highlights. The thirteen hand-drawn pictures are mostly executed in time-honoured fantasy style. Standard stuff ranging from landscapes to the usual scantily-clad female warriors. Most of pictures look pretty good at first, until you notice some of the perspective and scale problems. Not a bad effort though.

Available from: Your Choice Software, 144 London Road, Sheffield. Tel: 0742 555894. Disk nos. D478 a+b. Price: £1.98 including P+P.

65%

TALISMAN game

Adventure games are rare in the public domain, and decent adventure games are even scarcer, so it's good to see something like *Talisman* turning up in the mailbag. It looks like an old text adventure at first, but you don't actually enter any text from the keyboard. All your actions are carried out with the mouse, by clicking on the nine command buttons and using the compass directions. Text descriptions of the locations appear in the bottom half of the screen, with illustrations in the top corner. It's mainly the presentation that makes the game, as the control method can be a bit limiting and the scenario is standard fantasy stuff. Nevertheless, there's plenty of orc-bashing adventuring on offer.

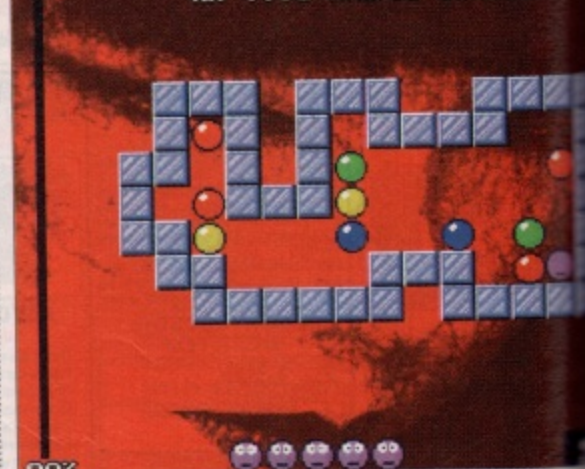
Available from: Jorvik Public Domain, 22 Hemlock Avenue, York, YO3 9DG. Disk no. GA 0096 a+b. Price: £2.08 including P+P.

80%



Pollymorf

(C) 1993 Andrew Campbell



ASSASSINS 148 game compilation

Yet another trio of free games have been loaded onto the latest *Assassins* compilation. Best of the three is

Nostalgium, a clone of that much-loved C64 shoot 'em up *Uridium*. Just like the original, it's a fast-moving horizontally-scrolling shoot 'em up, played over a series of dreadnoughts (that's big long spaceships to you and me). Most of the game is as it was in the original, so you still get the simple "bas-relief" graphics (remember them, they look like Wedgewood china) and snaky aliens swarm about the levels, while you dodge the walls and shoot the gun turrets. Nostalgia fans will lap it up for the first five minutes, but others will see it for the simple dated game it really is.

Also on the disk you get a version of *Mastermind*, and a variation on the *Soko-Ban* puzzle game theme. Not a bad compilation in all, especially as a lot of other PD game disks would be put to better use as drink coasters.

Available from: Roberta Smith DTP, 190 Falloden Way, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London, NW11 6JE. Disk no. ASI 148. Price: £1.40 including P+P.

76%



FATAL MORGANA

demo

You're spoilt for choice this month if you want a rave demo. Fatal Morgana has a standard buzzy techno soundtrack, but there's plenty of fun to be had with the visuals, which include a mental ostrich, more of those digitised dancers, and a childishly rib-tickling Beavis and Butt-head bit at the end (hu hu, hu hu, he he...).

Available from: PD Soft, 1 Bryant Avenue, Southend on Sea, Essex, SS1 2YD. Tel: 0702 466933.

Price: £3 including P+P.

80%

TOME OF MYTHS

classical mythology

If Greek gods are your bag, then here are a couple of disks you shouldn't miss. It's a Hyperbook creation that uses a mouse-controlled interface to simulate a conventional book. Pages can be chosen from a menu, or flicked through one by one. The pages are devoted to different ancient Greek gods and myths, with neat digitised illustrations in most cases. A registered version is also available, which includes an extra disk covering Tolkien and Folklore.

Available from: Mr L Haynes, 41 Springfield Road, Scartho, Grimsby, S Humberside, DN33 3JG. Price: £4 including P+P (registered version).

81%



COMPLEX ORIGIN

demo

A variety of sequences and effects are on show in this 2-disk AGA-only demo, which starts out with some nifty snatches of ray-traced and fractal animation. Next is a real time vector mini-movie, with a trendy Lawnmower Man kind of tunnel trip. Spinning bitmaps precede an impressive Wolfenstein/Doom 3D maze section.

Available from: Visage Computers, 18 Station Road, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, DE7 5LD.

Tel: 0602 444501. Price: £2.00 including P+P. AGA only.

79%

CYCLIC

demo

Very simple, this one. It's a series of colour-cycled images that are just perfect for that Condor moment. There are the usual tunnels, as hypnotic as ever, along with some more original patterns. It's all backed by a mellow ambient soundtrack. A spot-on chill out demo. More of this please!

Available from: Barkin Mad, 18 Rhyber Avenue, Lanark, Lanarkshire, ML11 7AL. Disk no. 0375.

Price: £1.25 including P+P.

87%

EXODUS ON LARD

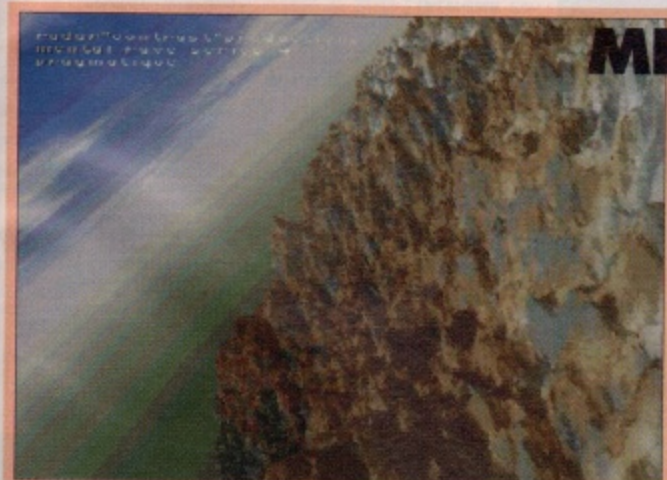
demo

Stylised video clips are the highlights in this, the latest graduate from the Jesus on-Es school of rave demos. Most of the visuals are mono images on a black background, but the single-colour animations and strobed logos are jazzed up with a bit of colour-cycling. The soundtrack is a good pumping technoid piece, backed with a shuffling Funky Drummer rhythm. Baggy, and a bit loose at the seams, Exodus on Lard entertains but it isn't that stunning.

Available from: PD Soft, 1 Bryant Avenue, Southend on Sea, Essex, SS1 2YD. Tel: 0702 466933. Disk no. 3666.

Price: £3.00 including P+P.

76%



MENTAL RAVES 4

music

For those who like the harder side of techno, this is a simple music demo that doesn't bother with a demo front-end, concentrating instead on the sonics. It's a single soundtracker module using distorted bass drums, frantic high hats, rasping chords and loads of lovely squelchy TB 303 basslines. Thanks to some clever programming, the 303 lines aren't just straight loops, you get that evolving snakey sound as the filter knobs are twiddled. Not gabba, not hardcore, but harder than average. Nice one.

Available from: PD Soft, 1 Bryant Avenue, Southend on Sea, Essex, SS1 2YD. Tel: 0702 466933. Price: £3.00 plus 50p P+P.

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- B1415 AMIGA DIARY v1.13
- B1416 PAYROLL
- B1417 EASYPRINT (1.3 only)
- B1418 PERSONAL ADDRESS BOOK (Password)
- B1419 PERSONAL JOURNAL (Secret Diary)

HOBBIES

- H 88 CROSSWORD DESIGNER
- H146 A-GENE Family history
- H175 GOLF RECORDED v1.04
- H232 ROAD ROUTE USA
- H214 FOOTBALL LEAGUE EDITOR
- H247 CALORIE BASE For recipes
- H250 DARTS LEAGUE D/BASE
- H298 CULT TV VOL 1 TV series info
- H299 WHOM 2 Data on TV progs.
- H302 LAST WILL & TESTAMENT
- H305 ASTRO 22 v.3.5 Latest astrology
- H307 FAMILY HISTORY D/BASE
- H310 TEN PIN BOWLING D/BASE
- H333 AMIGA PUNK Horse racing
- H336 PERM CHECK v1.0 Pools predictor
- H342 STITCHERY Cross stitch work
- H359 RACE RATER Horse predictor
- H360 QUESTION ATORT Quizmaker
- H361 NEW BIRTHYTHMS Excellent prog.
- H362 WINE MAKERS D/BASE
- H363 CYCLING M Useful
- H364 DARTS MACHINE Score recorder
- H365 AMYGEN Family history
- H366 POOLS WIZARD Demo
- H367 MING SHU Chinese Astrology
- H368 ASTRONOMY 2 Data & graphics
- H369 AMERICAN FOOTBALL (2 disks) Rules
- H370 LANDSCAPE GARDENING
- H371 GENEALOGIST W.B2 and above
- H372 TOP OF THE LEAGUE Football Manager
- H373 COURSE FORM Horse racing
- H374 FORECASTER Horse race predictor
- H375 STARVIEW Astronomers
- H376 CODE MUNGUS v5.7 Highway Code
- H377 FOOTBALL FORECAST DEMO
- H378 BON APPETITE Recipe database
- H379 POOLS TOOLS 2 Pools progs.
- H380 SEE THE AURA (2 disks) human aura
- H381 PHOTOGRAPHY About the Dark Room
- H382 DSOLVE CROSSWORD Solve them
- H383 PROFESSIONAL RINGO
- H384 WORD UTILITIES Word puzzle solver
- H385 KITE SIMULATOR Fly your kite!
- H386 POOLS WIZARD JUNIOR V1.0
- H387 SPIDERSORT UTILS Garden Designer
- H388 GENIE Family History
- H389 STOCK ANALYST Stocks & Shares
- H390 WHOM 3 Part 2
- H391 WHOM 3 Part 3
- H392 TAROT (2 disks)
- H393 KNIT Create patterns

COMMUNICATIONS

- C 25 COMMSOFT Needs C26
- C 26 COMMSOFT Needs C25
- C 62 AZ-COMM Modern programme
- C222 JRM COMM v1.02 For modems
- C242 TERM II v1.1 Corvus prog W.B2/3
- C303 OPTI COMM v1.0 Comm 2
- C347 SATELLITE TRACKER
- C357 to C382 AMATEUR RADIO 1 - 26 (26 disks) send for details
- C383 N COMM v3.0 Latest
- C384 BBS (3 disks) Bulletin board system
- C385 TERM v3.4 (2 disks) W.B2/3
- C386 SPOT FidoNet util
- C387 TERMINUS JRM Comm 2

EMULATORS

- EM 87 SPECCY + 40 GAMES 1.3 only
- EM141 IBM PC emulator
- EM143 ST EMULATOR 1.3 only
- EM149 C64 GAMES DISK 1 use with
- EM150 C64 GAMES DISK 2 emulator
- EM215 A64 EMULATOR v2.0* (2 disks) Latest C64 emulator
- EM306 MS-DOS PROGS FOR PC TASK (6 disks) 1.3 users get this!
- EM324 KICKSTART 2
- EM397 NUMPAD (A600 ONLY) Numeric keypad
- EM400 KICK 1.4 (W.B. 2 & 3 only) Degrades to Kickstart 1.3
- EM410 DEGRADER Degrades to 1.3
- EM412 FAKEMEM Degrades to 1.3/512k
- EM413 KILL AGA v2 Turn off AGA chipset
- EM414 KICKSTART 3 EMULATOR Upgrades - W.B2
- EM415 PC TASK v2.03
- EM416 SPECCY EMULATOR v1.7 All Amigas
- EM417 S KICK Switch WB 3.0 to 1.3
- EM418 Z KICK A600 emulator
- EM419 DATASETTE 64 Transfer C64 progs
- EM420 40 GAMES for EM416

PRINTER DRIVERS

- PD177 PRINTER DRIVERS (2 Disks) Loads of 'em!
- PD200 PRINTER DRIVER GENERATOR Make your own
- PD275 JOY OF PRINTING Drivers + fonts
- PD281 PRINT STUDIO 41 drivers - good
- PD327 CANON PRINTER DRIVERS
- PD328 PRINTER DRIVERS UPDATE 3
- PD335 PRINTER DRIVERS Canon BJ10e etc
- PD358 CANON PRINTER DRIVER BJ130 etc
- PD407 PRINTER DRIVERS Star/Epson/Pan/HP
- PD408 HP550C Printer Driver
- PD409 HP PRINTER DRIVERS
- PD410 PROF PRINTER DRIVERS
- PD411 STAR PRINTER DRIVERS

COPIERS

- CP234 FLASH COPY Multi-tasking
- CP257 FREE COPY v1.8 Removes protection
- CP313 WB v2.0 Removes protection (1.3 only)
- CP340 ASI CRUNCH 'N' COPY 2 Collection
- CP341 COOL COPIER v2.0 Fast & safe
- CP348 ASI DISK COPIERS Collection
- CP349 LOCK PIC 2 Removes protection
- CP350 D COPY v3.1
- CP351 MAVERICK COPIER Rem. protection
- CP352 SAFE II Private copy
- CP353 MEGA MONITOR Action replay type
- CP354 THE DISK UTIL W.B2+
- CP355 SUPER FORMATTER v1.0d
- CP356 SUPERDISK v2.02
- CP357 BAD FORMAT Run on disks
- CP358 COPIERS UNLIMITED
- CP360 DISKMADE V. Good (W.B2.0+)

VIRUS HELP

- VH 44 MASTER VIRUS KILLERS v2.0
- VH 93 WARRIORS VIRUS KILLERS
- VH218 NEW SUPERKILLERS v2.5
- VH235 BOOTX V4.45 WB 1.3/2
- VH312 LINK VIRUS DETECTOR
- VH420 EXTERMIN 8
- VH411 VIRUS Z v3.87
- VH413 ANTICLOVER v2 Link virus detector
- VH414 VIRUS CHECKER v3.33
- VH415 SUPER VIRUS KILL WB 2+
- VH416 TRONIC VIRUS KILLERS
- VH417 VIRUS Z II WB 2+

HARD DRIVE UTILS

- HD102 HARD DISK UTILS Excellent collection
- HD223 DELTRAX HD UTILS 1 Flaminio, HDCLK
- HD395 RE-ORG V2.3 Optimiser
- HD397 HD CLICK v2.53
- HD398 MR BACKUP v1.148
- HD399 BACKUP
- HD400 C DISK Optimiser
- HD401 HD STACKER Double your space

EDUCATION

- E6 LEARN & PLAY (2 disks) Early learning
- E9 MATHS DRILL
- E10 TYPING TUTOR
- E11 KIDSPRINT
- E13 STORYLAND 2 Save toyland
- E14 TC ASTRONOMY Book on a disk
- E15 TC DINOSAURS Learn about them
- E17 SPELLCHECK Learn foreign words
- E18 TRANSLATOR Spanish, French, Italian
- E19 COLOUR IT V1.3 For younger kids
- E21 COLOUR THE ALPHABET Very good
- E24 DTP - FOR KIDS Excellent
- E25 ALGEBRA
- E26 WATTS WIZARD Let the Wizard help
- E27 AMOSAGRAM Playing with words
- E28 BLACKBOARD MATHS
- E30 MR MEN STORIES All your favourites - 1.3 only
- E31 READY ROBOT Full of games
- E32 SCIENCE 1.2,3,4 (4 disks) Physics
- E33 MATHPILOT Unlucky pilot
- E35 PLOTTER V2.0 2.5 dm math plots
- E37 AMIGA TUTORIAL Beginners will like this
- E322 AGRAPIE Pie charts & others
- E334 SACC TO SCHOOL Kids puzzles, very good
- E335 FIREWORK ALPHABET Learning aid demo
- E336 GRAMMAR Correct your errors
- E337 WORLD GEOGRAPHY Very useful
- E338 CHEMBALANCE Chemical equations
- E339 MATH WITH HUMPTY
- E340 AMIGA WORLD Info on every country on Earth
- E341 SINGALONG NURSERY RHYMES
- E342 PICTURES & LETTERS
- E344 GREAT WOMEN OF OUR TIME
- E345 GAS TURBINE ENGINE Anim.
- E346 A STROKE ENGINE Anim.
- E347 STEAM ENGINE Anim.
- E348 WW II HISTORY BOOK
- E349 A VISIT TO THE RED PLANET Mars
- E350 EVO Evolution of man
- E351 FRACTIONS
- E352 GCSE MATHS
- E354 COMMUNICATE Sign language
- E355 LITTLE TRAVELLER French
- E356 ASSASSINS BACK SKOOL (3 disks)
- E357 TWO STROKE PETROL ENGINE ANIM
- E358 JAPANESE Learn the language
- E359 KEYBOARD TRAINER v1.1 Typing tutor
- E360 IRREGULAR VERBS - Quiz
- E361 HOW THE EARTH BEGAN
- E362 CHESS TUTOR
- E363 ELEMENTS
- E364 ANIMAL LAND 1 Ages 4+
- E365 PLAYS OF THE WORLD (3 disks)
- E366 MATHS ADVENTURE
- E367 MATH TALK Sound + Speech - ages 9+
- E368 KIDS DISK 1 - Learning
- E369 KIDS DISK 2 - Learning
- E370 CHILDRENS FAVOURITES Good Fun
- E371 THE ATOM (2 disks) All you need
- E372 JUNIOR MATHS
- E373 READ & LEARN (2 disks)
- E374 WORD FACTORY Spelling
- E375 KIDS DISK 3
- E376 KIDS DISK 4
- E377 OUR SOLAR SYSTEM
- E378 PLANETARIUM

DEMOS

- D110 BUDBRAIN MEGADEMO 3
- D143 END OF THE CENTURY 1999 No Brain-No Pain
- D159 PINK FLOYD - THE WALL (8 disks, 2 drives)
- D183 SANITY - YESTERDAY Brill!
- D201 CRONICS MEGADEMO
- D207 KEFFRENS MEGA DEMO VII (2 disks)
- D304 UTOPIA TOTAL CONFUSION
- D305 ODYSSEY (5 disks)
- D310 WACKO METAPHORPH ANIM *
- D311 ROBODOP/RUNNING MAN ANIM *
- D312 KEFFRENS DESERT DREAM 1993 (2 disks)
- D313 JESUS ON E'S (2 disks) 20 mins WOW!
- D316 BAIT MASKING New 2 meg Schwartz anim
- D317 TECHNOLOGICAL DEATH Like space balls Meg!
- D318 SPACE BALLS Brill!
- D319 TEKNO-A-TAK MEGA RAVE
- D321 TROJAN TEKNO TRACKS
- D322 DANCE TRASH (2 disks) Rave
- D324 SILENTS DEMON DOWNLOAD (2 disks)
- D325 3D DEMO by Anarchy
- D326 THE GATHERING 93 Stunning pics!
- D328 CYCLIC ART
- D330 SILENTS EXPOSE (2 disks)
- D331 POSEIDON CEREAL LOBOTOMY (not 1.3)
- D332 BATTLE OF BRITAIN Anim
- D333 STONEARTS ATMOSPHERE Great!
- D334 KEFFRENS DANE Short & Sweet!
- D336 SPACEBALLS MOBILE
- D341 QUALITY TIME (4 disks) Schwartz anim 5 meg required
- D342 MAYDAY RESISTANCE Rave & Strobos
- D343 ANDROMEDA (2 disks)
- D344 VANISH WORLD OF COMMODORE
- D345 SANITY WORLD OF COMMODORE
- D346 TRIP TO DEEP SPACE (2 disks) Mega Rave
- D347 LEMON RINK A DINK (not 1200) Classy
- D348 ALCHEMY RAGE Great (2 disks)
- D349 ELENUM DEIVIDUS MUSIC (2 disks) 1.3 only
- D1163 3D FONTS (3 Disks)
- D1168 CARTOON BRUSHES
- D1219 TV GRAPHICS (2 Disks)
- D1226 GRAPHIC UTILS
- D1227 REAL 3D FONTS
- D1228 REALTIMES (2 Disks) 30 Pics
- D1240 RICK PARKS ART
- D1245 BOOFTPC V1.2
- D1246 CLIP-ART PORTFOLIO (15 disks)
- D1261 LARGE FONTS DISK
- D1265 SCANNES CLIP-ART (3 Disks)
- D1266 PG CLIP-ART
- D1268 KXLE FONTS
- D1269 DYNAMITE FONTS
- D1270 FONTS & SURFACES
- D1272 CLIP-ART COLL. (8 Disks)
- D1273 CLIP-ART VOL 1 (7 Disks)
- D1274 FONTLIB
- D1276 SOMETHING FOR NOTHING 1
- D1277 SOMETHING FOR NOTHING 2
- D1279 DYNAMITE FONTS 2
- D1280 HACK FONTS 1 (2 Disks)
- D1283 COSMOPOLITAN FONTS 1
- D1284 COSMOPOLITAN FONTS 2
- D1285 COSMOPOLITAN FONTS 3
- D1286 COSMOPOLITAN FONTS 4
- D1289 SONIC DEV CONVERTERS PACK
- D1290 BEATRICE POTTER CLIP-ART
- D1300 GELIGNITE FONTS
- D1309 RAY GANCE (2 Disks)
- D1310 T.S.P. PICTURE FONTS
- D1311 DISK MANAGER - FONTS (Plus only)
- D1312 SHADOW MAKER
- D1313 MOVIE MAKER
- D1314 ANIMATIONS BRIDGE V1.0
- D1315 PLOTTING & GRAPHICS
- D1316 DISK ICONS
- D1317 ASSASSINS MULTI-VISION V1.0
- D1318 THE SNOWMAN CLIP-ART
- D1319 PAGESTREAM 2.1 FONTS (5 disks)
- D1320 WALT DISNEY CLIP-ART
- D1321 MAGNETIC PAGES V1.3
- D1322 COMPUTEYES FONTS PACK 1
- D1323 COMPUTEYES FONTS PACK 2

GRAPHICS

- GU163 3D FONTS (3 Disks)
- GU168 CARTOON BRUSHES
- GU219 TV GRAPHICS (2 Disks)
- GU226 GRAPHIC UTILS
- GU227 REAL 3D FONTS
- GU228 REALTIMES (2 Disks) 30 Pics
- GU240 RICK PARKS ART
- GU245 BOOFTPC V1.2
- GU246 CLIP-ART PORTFOLIO (15 disks)
- GU261 LARGE FONTS DISK
- GU265 SCANNES CLIP-ART (3 Disks)
- GU266 PG CLIP-ART
- GU268 KXLE FONTS
- GU269 DYNAMITE FONTS
- GU270 FONTS & SURFACES
- GU272 CLIP-ART COLL. (8 Disks)
- GU273 CLIP-ART VOL 1 (7 Disks)
- GU274 FONTLIB
- GU276 SOMETHING FOR NOTHING 1
- GU277 SOMETHING FOR NOTHING 2
- GU279 DYNAMITE FONTS 2
- GU280 HACK FONTS 1 (2 Disks)
- GU283 COSMOPOLITAN FONTS 1
- GU284 COSMOPOLITAN FONTS 2
- GU285 COSMOPOLITAN FONTS 3
- GU286 COSMOPOLITAN FONTS 4
- GU289 SONIC DEV CONVERTERS PACK
- GU290 BEATRICE POTTER CLIP-ART
- GU300 GELIGNITE FONTS
- GU309 RAY GANCE (2 Disks)
- GU310 T.S.P. PICTURE FONTS
- GU311 DISK MANAGER - FONTS (Plus only)
- GU312 SHADOW MAKER
- GU313 MOVIE MAKER
- GU314 ANIMATIONS BRIDGE V1.0
- GU315 PLOTTING & GRAPHICS
- GU316 DISK ICONS
- GU317 ASSASSINS MULTI-VISION V1.0
- GU318 THE SNOWMAN CLIP-ART
- GU319 PAGESTREAM 2.1 FONTS (5 disks)
- GU320 WALT DISNEY CLIP-ART
- GU321 MAGNETIC PAGES V1.3
- GU322 COMPUTEYES FONTS PACK 1
- GU323 COMPUTEYES FONTS PACK 2
- GU324 COLOURED ICONS
- GU325 GRAPHICS RIPPER
- GU362 DIRECT ACTION Anim creator
- GU363 M.A.K. Mandelbrot adv kit
- GU402 FREE PAINT COPY of DPaint
- GU403 VIEWTEC v1.02 AGA graphics display
- GU404 FONTS DISK 1 Large & small
- GU405 DIGI FONTS Good variety
- GU406 COLOUR FONTS 1 Modern, Oldie, Pica
- GU407 COLOUR FONTS 2 Marble, Grids
- GU408 COLOUR FONTS 3 Diamond, Eye, Sun
- GU409 COLOUR FONTS 4 DigiFont brushes
- GU410 COLOUR FONTS 5 Ornate 8, 16 etc
- GU411 COLOUR CLIP-ART HiMed/Low for DTP
- GU412 COLOUR CLIP-ART Animals
- GU413 CLIP-ART Animals B&W IFF
- GU414 CONTACT CLIPART 1 Cartoon, Zodiac
- GU415 CONTACT CLIPART 2 Buildings, Xmas
- GU416 CONTACT CLIPART 3 Signs, Teddy's, Xmas
- GU417 GRAPHICS TOOLS 2
- GU418 RAYSHADE (3 Disks)
- GU419 PRO PAGE TEMPLATES
- GU420 PRO PAGE HELP
- GU421 DPAINT TUTOR Learn to use it
- GU422 SPECTRA PAINT
- GU423 THE DESIGNER Arcade backgrounds
- GU424 RJ UTILS Perfect Paint, Image W/Shop
- GU425 FONT FARM 3
- GU426 FONT FARM 1
- GU427 FONT FARM 2
- GU428 VIEW 3.2 Anim Player
- GU429 HAM LAB PRO v2.08 Picture Converter
- GU430 ICONS GALLERY
- GU431 STILL STORE
- GU460 QUICK GRAB AGA
- GU462 POST Postscript interpreter
- GU463 POST SCRIPT FONTS 1
- GU464 POST SCRIPT FONTS 2
- GU465 POST SCRIPT FONTS 3
- GU466 GELIGNITE FONTS 4
- GU467 ULTRAPRINT
- GU468 ARTISTIKS Art package
- GU469 BLUE ROSE FONTS 1
- GU470 BLUE ROSE FONTS 2

SUPERB QUALITY CLIPART

- GU326 ART 1 (2 Disks) Weddings
- GU327 ART 2 (2 Disks) Houses
- GU328 ART 3 (3 Disks) Religious
- GU329 ART 4 (2 Disks) Animals
- GU330 ART 5 (2 Disks) Men
- GU331 ART 6 (2 Disks) Women
- GU332 ART 7 (2 Disks) Kids
- GU333 ART 8 Business
- GU334 ART 9 Office
- GU335 ART 10 Students
- GU336 ART 11 Sale
- GU337 ART 12 (3 Disks) Christmas
- GU338 ART 13 (3 Disks) Punch
- GU339 ART 14 Animals
- GU340 ART 15 Cats
- GU341 ART 16 Silhouettes
- GU342 ART 17 (2 Disks) Schools
- GU343 ART 18 Bikes
- GU344 ART 19 (2 Disks) Sport
- GU345 ART 20 Olympic
- GU346 ART 21 (2 Disks) Medical
- GU347 ART 22 Sea Life
- GU348 ART 23 Decorative Months
- GU349 ART 24 Whiskey (funny)
- GU350 ART 25 Holidays
- GU351 ART 26 (2 Disks) Old banners
- GU352 ART 27 Art Nouveau flowers
- GU353 ART 28 Butterflies
- GU354 ART 29 (2 Disks) Food & kitchen
- GU355 ART 30 Colouring book (DPaint)
- GU356 ART 31 Borders (DTP) (2 Disks)
- GU357 ART 32 (2 Disks) MAC clipart
- GU358 ART 33 Homework (comic)
- GU359 ART 34 (2 Disks) Teddy Bears
- GU360 ART 35 (2 Disks) Vanity Fair (cartoon)
- GU361 ART 36 Halloween (cartoon)
- GU362 ART 37 Showtime (dancing etc)
- GU363 ART 38 Vegetarian
- GU364 ART 39 Floral (detailed)
- GU365 ART 40 Myths & Zodiac
- GU366 ART 41 Botanical art
- GU367 ART 42 Family scenes (2 Disks)
- GU368 ART 43 Golf Honour (2 Disks)
- GU369 ART 44 Space & transport
- GU370 ART 45 Soft scene 2 - Rural
- GU371 ART 46 Sports 3
- GU372 ART 47 Snow
- GU373 ART 48 Travel (2 Disks)
- GU374 ART 49 Alphabet (2 Disks)
- GU375 ART 50 Alphabets & Phrases - stars etc
- GU376 ART 51 Fish & aquatic pics
- GU377 ART 52 Software (3 disks)
- GU378 ART 53 Restaurant (3 disks)
- GU379 ART 54 Mammals
- GU380 ART 55 Animals & birds
- GU381 ART 56 Mammals animals
- GU382 ART 57 Burfield field
- GU383 ART 58 Beasts & Myths (3 Disks)
- GU384 ART 59 Transport (3 Disks)
- GU385 ART 60 Trucks & trains
- GU386 ART 61 Astrology (2 Disks)
- GU387 ART 62 Aircraft (3 Disks)
- GU388 ART 63 Birds - songbirds etc
- GU389 ART 64 Dogs
- GU390 ART 65 Houses, castles & buildings
- GU391 ART 66 Sports - Mac
- GU392 ART 67 Horticulture (5 Disks)
- GU393 ART 68 Military (10 Disks)
- GU394 ART 69 Sports 3
- GU395 ART 70 Snow

PROGRAMMING

- PR

GAMES

- 64 MEGABALL Breakout - very addictive
65 STAR TREK I (2 disks) Space
66 CASTLE OF DOOM Adventure
67 HOLY GRAIL Text only adventure
68 GOLDEN FLEECE Text only adventure
69 CARD GAMES Hap, Plot, Queens etc
70 SUPER TWINTIS Shape dropping excellent
71 GAMES DISK 7 Backgammon etc
72 WIZZY QUEST * Arcade puzzle, good graphics
73 RETURN TO EARTH Elite type
74 LLAMATRON 512K & 1Mb Shoot 'em up
75 BUB BASH Shoot 'em up
76 ESCAPE FROM JOVI Space Arcade
77 DOWNHILL CHALLENGE Tactics, ski to win
78 BATTLEFORCE Fantasy roll playing game
79 DRAGON CAVE Dungeon Master type
80 MECHFIGHT RPG Roll playing game
81 GREYSAYER Arcade adventure
82 SCUM EATERS Shoot 'em up
83 STAR TREK 2 (3 disks) Not 1200
84 POM POM GUNNER * Arcade shoot 'em up
85 FRUIT MACHINE * Excellent
86 MECHFORCE (2 disks) RPG
87 SEA LANCE * Submarine Simulation
88 KLONDIKE Cards
89 AIR AGE II World War 2 S.E.U.
90 MERV THE WERCELESS Platform
91 TREASURE HUNT (6-8 yrs)
92 CHEAT LIST GAMES Y.I.B.
93 WHACKO JNR IN WONDERLAND Good for kids
94 PARACHUTE JOUST Good graphics
95 CRYSTAL CAVERNS Arcade adv.
96 TREX-73 Space text adv.
97 ZEUS - THE GAME Puzzle tiles
98 DUNGEON DELIVER (2 Disks) Mazes
99 PICK UP A PUZZLE * (2 Disks) Jigsaws
100 CHAINSAW DEATH * Futuristic maze type
101 CAN YOU PICTURE IT * (2 Disks) Jigsaws
102 CROSSFIRE * Excellent for kids
103 BALLOONACY * Bomb the skyscrapers
104 DEMOLITION MISSION * Bomber
105 BLACKJACK Card game
106 PETER'S QUEST Arcade - Rescue the Maiden
107 AMIGAMAN Games 10 games
108 SHAPES Very playable for kids
109 GO LOOLY S.E.U. Good graphics
110 STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION
111 BLOCKIT Good graphics - Ace
- 694 HACK Text adv.
695 DRAGON TILES Great tiles game
696 BOARD GAMES
697 ATIN ATAK C64 game
698 BART SIMPSON Scrolling S.E.U.
699 PIPE RIDER Space Invader S.E.U.
700 RAMIFY Pairing
701 RUSH HOUR Frogger - Get across the road
702 TONTESPLET Speed ball type
703 WET BEAVER GAMES Pong
704 WIZARD WORLD S.E.U. Platform
705 WORLD OF FOOLS Shoot em up
706 CARD SHARP 5 card games
707 TOTAL WAR Risk type
708 AIRMANIA Platform
709 SKYFLYER WWII S.E.U.
710 PUGGLES Qbert Brill
711 SQUATS REVENGE Wolf clone
712 PAIR IT Shapes
713 GAMES COMPILATION I & 6 games
714 ATLANTIS I Strategy
715 NAPOLEONIC WAR SIMULATION Strategy
716 MISSION RAID PART II S.E.U.
717 SNAKES & LADDERS Good
718 GAMES GALORE VOL 7 For the young
719 AIR WARRIOR Flight simulation
720 E-TYPE Arcade S.E.U.
721 DUNGEONS OF MADROJ Hacktype
722 QUICK & SILVER Platform, Excellent
723 MASTER OF THE TOWN Shoot the sign posts
724 ETHOS Text adv - pics
725 BATTLE CARS 30 cars S.E.U.
726 CHALLENGER Quiz - 5 player
727 CATACOMB Graphic adv - very well done
728 KINGDOM AT WAR War games
729 SMASH TV RIPOFF S.E.U. Futuristic
730 DODDY Mario type platform
731 PICK OUT Pair it, V. good
732 NU-SHOOT EM UP Space
733 STRIKE BALL Baseball, Brill
734 PARAGON Marble Slide
735 CRAZY SUE Platform, 1st rate
736 PETER'S QUEST Arcade - Rescue the Maiden
737 AMIGAMAN Games 10 games
738 SHAPES Very playable for kids
739 GO LOOLY S.E.U. Good graphics
740 STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION
741 BLOCKIT Good graphics - Ace
- 6199 RAPHAELS REVENGE Turtle S.E.U.
6200 MIDNIGHT THIEF Game Adv.
6201 LAMER GAME Wofftype shoot the basties
6202 GRUB GRABBER II Help Elvin! Avoid gremlin
6203 SWORD OF WORLOCK 3 disk Adv.
6204 A NIGHT AT THE TOP Terrorist adv
6205 QUADRIX Puz. Excellent
6206 YUM YUM * Pacman
6207 REVENGE MUTANT CAMELS S.E.U.
6208 BATTLEMENTS Hunchback platform
6209 LEMMINGOIDS Blast them!
6210 KARATE WORM Platform-cate
6211 SNAKE IN THE GRASS Platform - neat
6212 WIZARDS DOMAIN Graphic adv
6213 PIXIE KINGDOM (2 disks)
6214 ARCADIA Breakout - very popular
6215 PORK A PORK Stop the foxes
6216 MR BRICK - Mario type
6217 RAID III S.E.U. - wicked
6218 SERENE III
6219 WOTSITNAME Quiz
6220 TETREN - tetris
6221 NUMPTY & THE ALIEN INVADERS
6222 LOTHAN Graphic adv
6223 OMEGA RACE S.E.U. Great
6224 MENTAL IMAGES DISK 2 3 games
6225 MR & MRS Young platform - very good
6226 TANK Great 98%
6227 DEFENDIA Arcade 95% Brilliant conversion
6228 GRAND PRIX SIMULATOR Mega
6229 NUMBER FUMBLER Number puzzle
6230 LEMMINGOIDS Blast away
6231 GROWTH
6232 PROJECT 1
6233 LAZER ZONE
6234 MECHFORCE v.3.71 Latest update
6235 PROPERTY MARKET Game Strategy
6236 ROLL ON A LAMER Pushing
6237 HACKLITE v.1.0 Mario & Hack
6238 DIE FILTH (2 disks) Brill like Swir
6239 ULTIMATE HINT KIT v1.0
6240 THE ACE CHEATS DISK 1 Lots
6241 BATTLE OF BRITAIN Strategy
6242 THE SECRET OF MONKEY ISLAND (Demo)
6243 ESCAPE II Creating games
6244 QUIZMASTER v.1.0 Test your knowledge
6245 NEBULA Shoot-em-up fast action!
6246 THE BEAST Mission to kill
- 6290 NADLOT RUN Cat & dog chase
6291 OUCH Clobber those moles
6292 ABSOLUTE ADV VOL ONE
6293 CHADS STRIKES BACK Maps etc.
6294 GAME TAKER v4.50 Latest
6295 AMOS CRICKET Good cricket game
6296 ARANAX 40 levels
6297 HELL ZONE Elite
6298 FATAL MISSION Good shoot 'em up
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 U324 **JcGRAPH v1.0** - Very powerful business graph creator. Professional product.
 D174/D175 (2 DISKS) **NINE FINGERS** - From the creators of State Of The Art. The most impressive Rave demo around.
 G290/G291 (2 DISKS) **GEORG GLAXO** - Superb German platform game. A massive game with big, bold and smooth graphics.
 D176/177 (2 DISKS) **MAXIMUM OVERDRIVE** - Clever demo where camcorder film footage is converted into stripped down graphics.
 U325 **OctaMED v2.00** - Top of the range music creator. V.good.
 U326 **KITE SIMULATOR v2.42** - Simulates kites.
 U327 **DISKSALV v1.28** - Disk and file recovery programme. Is able to undelete, deleted files, recover data from corrupted disk etc.. Essential tool. NOT A500+
 S101 **FUNNY FACES SLIDESHOW** - Digitised faces warped in various ways! pretty freaky stuff.
 U328 **MAVERICK COPIER** - Removes copy protection from over 450 commercial games.
 U329 **EPU HARD DRIVE STACKER** - Similar to the commercial Disk Expander software which can nearly double the space on your hard drive with super fast compression and expansion techniques. Beginners may find installation fiddly. Only rudimentary knowledge required. NOT A500+
 U330 **DMS II** - Compresses entire disks into a single file. Even works with NDOS Amiga disks. NOT A500+
 D178/179 (2 DISKS) **ACCESS 1st AGA DEMO** - Big A1200 only demo.
 G293 **ROAD TO HELL** - Brill overhead racing game. Includes split screen for 2 players. Missiles, smoke screens, better engines, etc....
 D180 **EMPTY HEAD DEMO** - Wonderful. A1200 ONLY+
 G294 **FLEUCH v2** - Super C64 Thrust clone. Very playable.
 G295 **FATAL MISSION 2** - Very well programmed challenging shoot-em-up.
 E69 **ASTRO 22 v3.5** - Professional astrology programme for horoscope predictions.
 S102/103/104/105 (4 DISKS) **WORLD OF MANGA** - The best Manga slideshow around. A1200 ONLY+
 U331 **AMIBASE PROFESSIONAL II v1.8** - Very easy to use and fast database. Very good indeed.
 G296/G297 (2 DISKS) **MOTOROLA INVADERS 2** - Space invaders will never be the same again. Great. A1200 ONLY+
 A164 **WEATHERMAN ANIMATIONS** - Collection of funny animated sketches about an unfortunate weather presenter. A500 ONLY+
 E70 **JUNIOR MATHS DEMO** - Disabled demo version, only counting game available.
 D181 **SANTY-ARTE** - One of the best demos I've ever seen. Who needs AGA when theres demos like this!!!
 U332 **MAGNUM v1.7** - Disk magazine creator. Definable menus and the ability to add music modules.
 E71 **CHILDRENS FAVORITES 1** - Nine nursery rhymes with on screen words, illustrations and music.
 A165/166 (2 DISKS) **ON THE GREEN** - Animation for golfing fans. REQUIRE 2 MEGABYTES+
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 G299 **HIGH OCTANE** - The top PD racing game around. Superb graphics, two player split screen option, weapons and graphically awesome. Even includes an intro animation. Don't miss this!
 D182 **EXPLICIT 2** - A demo that makes good use of the AGA chipset. A1200 ONLY+
 D183 **AESHETICA** - What a strange demo. A1200 ONLY+
 U333 **EASYSIDE** - Very good slideshow disk creator. Does most of the hard work, all you need to do is provide the pictures.
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 E54 **STIRLING ENGINE** - Cross section animations of the Stirling engine.
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 U154 **AUDIO ANIMATION** - Animation studio with onion skin facility. Sound samples can be assigned to any frame.
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 U285 **MOVIES** - Video titling tool. For adding scrolling text to videos. Text can scroll up or down and across the screen. Plus some other extra fx.
 U295 **MIXED IMAGINE OBJECTS** - Loads of Star Trek objects and military hardware objects for use with the Imagine raytracer.

ORDERING PD DISKS

PRICE PER PD DISK £1.00
 (1 FREE DISK FREE FOR EVERY 10 PURCHASED)

CATALOGUE DISK VOL.1 ... £0.50
 CATALOGUE DISK VOL.2 ... £0.50
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Overseas orders. Use the above prices, then add 20% of that total, to cover the extra postage costs. Thank you.

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CLIP ART

U236 - Photo copiers, Office, Men at work.
 U230 - Food.
 U224 - Sign boards, Star Trek, Christmas.
 U223 - Sports, Transport, Work.
 U221 - Anatomy, Buildings, Christmas, Holidays.
 U220 - Animals, People, Places.
 U218 - Cartoons, Construction, Religion, School, Weddings.
 U100 - Teddy bears.
 U86 - Easter, Christmas, Jungle Animals, Famous faces.
 U95 - Zodiac signs, Computers, Symbols, Logos, Sport.
 U251 - Babies, Furniture, Space, Skeletons.
 U233 - Christmas.
 U229 - Cars, Flowery decorations, Cupids, Hearts.
 U227 - Palm trees, Party invites, Maps of Europe, Postage stamps.
 U226 - Wild west, Crowds of people, Frames, Signs.
 U225 - Fancy letters, Cars, Cute Animals.
 U222 - Music, Silhouettes, Symbols, Teddy bears.

MUSIC TOOLS

U178 **COMPOSER** - Traditional music composing with notes and staves.
 U314 **OCTAMED TUTOR** - comprehensive manual for struggling Octamed users.
 U200 **SHADOW SAMPLE MAKER** - Create sound samples around a sampler.
 U325 **OCTAMED V2.0** - The best PD music sequencer around. Quite complex, but well worth the effort.
 U183 **PROTRACKER** - Another good music sequencer.
 U256 **ST-05** - Sound samples and instruments for use with either U183 and U325.
 U257 **ST-11** - As above.
 U258 **ST-50** - As above.
 U259 **ST-87** - As above.
 U260 **ST-88** - As above.
 U261 **ST-89** - As above.
 U262 **ST-91** - As above.
 U263 **ST-92** - As above.
 U264 **ST-93** - As above.

DISK UTILITIES

U281 **D-COPY 3.1** - Powerful disk duplication software.
 U215 **FREECOPY** - Removes various types of copy protections from a variety of commercial games.
 U283 **LOCKPICK** - Similar to Freecopy but supports some other different titles - around 450.
 U158 **NOERRORS** - Formats hard drives and - floppies with hard errors (physical damage to surface) and hides them so data will not be written or read from the bad tracks. Saves you money, useless disks can now be used.
 U94 **MRBACKUP** - Hard drive backup software.
 U327 **DISKSALV 2** - Corrupt data recovery. Undeletes files, validates disks, reads badly corrupt files and rewrites them, etc.. NOT A500+
 U328 **MAVERICK COPIER** - Another commercial game protection cracker. Well over 400 games supported.
 U329 **EPU HARD DRIVE STACKER** - Increases hard disk space upto 50% using special compression libraries which compress files written to the disk. Stays hidden in the background.

MIXED UTILITIES

U291 **RELOKICK** - Downgrades your A500+, A600 or A1200 to Kickstart 1.3. Very reliable compatibility ratio when used to run many A500 only titles. Even works with many commercial games. Essential.
 U301 **A-REXX MANUAL** - Extensive manual on the A-Rexx programming language. Many example scripts.
 U206 **RACE RATER** - Horse racing predictor.
 U294 **POOLS TOOLS** - Football pools predictor.
 U323 **FOOTY** - Football league database. Presents various types of statistics, plus match predictions.
 U316 **MAGIC WORKBENCH** - Give your Workbench a cosmetic face lift. Changes the icons and a choice of background patterns. NOT A500+
 U293 **PARBENCH** - Amiga networking software. Allows communications and control between two connected Amiga (even CDTV) computers.
 U282 **TERMINUS 2.0** - Excellent modem communications software.
 U300 **NCOMM 3.0** - Latest version of this incredibly popular communications package. Very easy to setup. Great for beginners.
 U267 **SPECTRUM EMULATOR V1.4** - Run Spectrum games on your Amiga. Load in software via a sampler. Games can then be saved to disk.
 U241 **CANON PRINTER DRIVERS** - Bubble Jet drivers for the following models: CanonBJ30, CanonBJ10-20, CanonBJ300-300.
 U239 **STAR PRINTER DRIVERS** - 9 and 24 pin printer drivers for the Star range of printers.
 U103 **MESSYSID II** - Transfer files to and from Amiga DOS and PC MSDOS disks.
 U313 **AGA UTILITIES** - Loads of utilities for A1200 owners. Includes a number of downloading tools.
 U274 **CG FONTS COLLECTION VOL.1** - Scalable Compugraphic fonts for word processors and DTP that support this format. High quality.
 U275 **CG FONTS COLLECTION VOL.2** - As above.
 U276 **CG FONTS COLLECTION VOL.3** - As above.
 U308 **CG FONTS COLLECTION VOL.4** - As above.
 U318 **BLITZ BLANKER** - Brill screen blanker written in Blitz Basic, includes source code. Comes with a variety of modules. Best used with a hard drive.

ALL TITLES ARE COMPATIBLE WITH
 ALL AMIGA'S UNLESS STATED
 OTHERWISE.

GROUND ZERO SOFTWARE (CU)
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 REDLAND
 BRISTOL BS6 6PE
 ENGLAND

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 POSTAGE & PACKING COSTS*

GAMES

U163/164 (2 DISKS) **A64 PACKAGE** - Commodore 64 emulator. Run C64 games on your miggly. NOT A1200+
 U146 **AMIGA SYSTEMS CHECKERS** - Suite of Amiga system performance testers and diagnostic analysers.
 U112 **AMOS WORD SQUARE SOLVER** - Locate those elusive words.
 U111 **GOLFSORE** - Golf score database. Keep a computerised record of your results.
 U7 **GHOST WRITER** - Intro demo writer. Also include your own music modules.
 U180 **BROWSER II** - Superb directory utility. For transferring files etc. Editable pull down menus.
 U188 **EDIT KEYS** - Keypmap editor.
 U269 **DART MACHINE** - Computer dart scoring.
 U290 **CHARACTER GENERATOR** - Advanced Dungeons and Dragons character generator. Every rule is realised by the programme for character creation. Also will print out the character sheet.
 U280 **LEMMINGS II HARD DRIVE INSTALLER** - Install Lemmings 2 on your Hard drive. NOT A500+
 U302 **AMOS NCOMMAND** - Design Workbench 2.0 style front ends for your Amos programmes. Saves as Amos source code. Save yourself hours of coding.
 U307 **AMOS PRINTER ROUTINE** - Creates GFX printer routines for Amos projects.
 U248 **NOAH'S BEGINNERS GUIDE TO THE AMIGA** - Tutorial for complete beginners. Based on the A500 but loads of universal information for all models. Also covers hardware like, modems, hard drives, and printers.
 U240 **AMOS LESSON 1** - Easy Amos tutorial. Focuses on basic screen commands, giving many examples (interactive) on how they work and for what purpose they can be used for.
 U173/174 **NORTH C** - Complete C programming environment.
 U160 **POWER LOGO** - Logo programming language.
DEMOS *A1200 ONLY*
 D153 **RETINA** - Energetic rave music with flashy effects. Turn down the lights!!!
 D157 **MOBILE - DESTINATION UNKNOWN** - Spectacular vector demo.
 D159 **LETHAL EXIT** - Long running vector based demo. Light source vectors and tunnels....
 D160 **TROJAN** - TECHNO TRACKS II - Rave demo from the US of A.
 D149 **PLANET GROVE** - Very eye catching.
 D158 **NOP AGA** - Little demo from Hungary.
DEMOS
 D161 **FAIRLIGHT 242** - Twenty nine megabytes of graphics compressed onto one disk. Incredible. Cool rave demo. A500+ & A600 USERS REQUIRE FAST RAM OR RELOKICK+
 D162 **FRONTIER** - Rolling demo of Elite II.
 D156 **JETSET** - Vectors and graffiti.
 D148 **STATE OF THE ART** - One of most graphically impressive music demos ever.
 D140/141 (2 DISKS) **RSI TIME ZONE** - Awesome megademo.
 D124/125 (2 DISKS) **REAL EMPATHY** - Fifteen minute demo with a shoot-em-up at the end. A500 ONLY+
 D122 **BURGER HILL** - Influenced by the humble hamburger. A500 ONLY+
 D114 **ALPHA OMEGA** - Very clever demo. NOT A1200+
 D111 **FRACTAL FRENZY** - Mandelbrot demo. Fast real-time calculations.
 D90 **SESPORI** - Pretty classy demo.
 D77 **MELTED EXPERIENCE** - Recommended for all serious demo collectors.
 D65/66 (2 DISKS) **SILENTS BLUE HOUSE** - Strange combination of a Thrust clone and loads of music tracks. V good. NOT A1200+
MUSIC DEMOS
 M137 **DIGITAL DEBUSSY VOL.1** - Five haunting piano renditions of Claude Debussy. By Rob Baxter.
 M138 **DIGITAL DEBUSSY VOL.2** - More piano suites.
 M139 **CLASSIX** - Music of three famous composers: Handel, Bach, and Pachelbel.
 M134 **RHAPSODY IN BLUE** - Popular jazz music. From the Galaxy chocolate advert!!!
 M130/131/132/134 (4 DISKS) **THE A-Z OF C64 SONGS** - Hundreds of classic Commodore 64 tunes from games. Many from the top game music composers of that era. Great stuff.
 M129 **TOCATA & FUGUE IN D MINOR** - Well known popular classical music piece - but no one seems to know the name? NOT A500+
 M125 **MUMBO JUMBO** - Decent music and interesting visuals. Things fly all over the place.
 M122 **GOSPEL KARAOKE** - Sing a long to the words and sampled music.
 M119 **TECHNO WARRIORS** - Rave for over 24 minutes.
 S88 **FORGOTTEN** - Riveting fantasy artwork.
 S87 **TERMINATION PICTURE SHOW 1** - Hand drawn characters from 2000AD and the DC comics.
 S86 **CAT SLIDESHOW** - Digitised cute and fluffy kitties.
 S85 **NAM SLIDESHOW** - Snaps from the Vietnam war.
 S73 **GULF WAR SLIDESHOW** - What hardware was used in the conflict.
 S67 **NAGEL SLIDE** - Hand drawn pictures of seductively dressed ladies.
 S99 **JURASSIC PARALLAX** - Many vicious dinosaurs.
 S98 **SATURNE 93** - Well drawn artwork, from Manga art to fantasy art.
 S91 **MANGA WORLD** - Needs no introductions, the cut Japanese cartoons.
 S92 **AKIRA** - More Manga pictures.
 S100 **FERRARI AGA** - Fast sports cars. A1200 ONLY+
 S94 **NIGEL MANSELL AGA** - Nige in his Formula One racing days with Williams. A1200 ONLY+
 S93 **REVELATIONS** - One of the best hand drawn slideshows ever. Amazing attention to detail.
 G282 **MEGABALL AGA** - Superb arkanoid clone. In 256 colours. A real quality game by any standards. A1200 ONLY+
 G288 **NUMERIX** - Excellent board game for 1 or 2 players. A hybrid of Tetris, Dominos, and Scrabble.
 G273/274 (2 DISKS) **STARBASE 13** - Sci Fi graphic adventure. Uses point and click interface used by such games like Monkey Island.
 G222 **CHESS GAMES** - 2 very well programmed chess games: GNU Chess (NOT A500+), and Chess 2.0 (for all Amiga's). Includes 10 top Chess tips on how to play successful Chess.
 G280 **BLACK DAWN** - 3D perspective dungeon game with an Alien Breed scenario.
 G37 **SEALANCE** - Submarine wargame.
 G183 **BOUNCE & BLAST** - Very playable platform blasting game. Brilliant cartoon sprites.
 G193 **HELLZONE** - Shoot-em-up like R-Type.
 G200 **FIGHTING WARRIORS** - 1 or 2 player martial arts combat game. Large well animated characters with numerous moves including a couple of special moves.
 G205 **TOP OF THE LEAGUE** - Soccer management game.
 G210/211 (2 DISKS) **TALISMAN** - Huge icon driven graphic adventure. -REQUIRES 2 MEGABYTES+
 G212 **FRUSTRATION** - Text based adventure. Loads of depth.
 G224 **OBLIVION** - Fast moving defender clone.
 G226 **MORIA V5.4** - Massive RPG, Dungeons and a town to explore. Hours of play.
 G229 **GIGER TETRIS** - Tetris with 256 colours. A1200 ONLY+
 G232 **MONACO** - Arcade game clone. Fast and furious.
 G237 **BACKGAMMON** - Computer version of the board game. One or two players.
 G241 **IMPERIAL WALKER** - Take control of an X-Wing fighter and take the Imperial Walkers from reaching the Allied HQ. 3D Game.
 G246 **WIBBLE WORLD GIDDY** - Amazing platform puzzle game similar to the budget Dizzy games.
 G169 **DONKEY KONG** - Fun platform game. The first game to feature Mario in the arcades. NOT A1200+
 G238 **TETREN** - Tetris game with themed levels. Takes the theme one step further.
 G271 **JELLYQUEST** - 3D isometric puzzle game.
 G168 **OTHELLO** - Good version of the board game. Computer player is a real tough customer.
 G276 **THE GREAT ESCAPE OF BILLY BURGLAR** - Lovely little platform game. Help Billy escape from the spotlights.
 G68 **INSIDERS CLUB** - Stockmarket game. Better than it sounds. Very polished addictive game.
 G177 **CRAZY SUE II** - Very popular platform adventure game.
 G35 **JAR** - Crystal Castles clone. An old arcade game a bit like Pacman with raised platforms. 3D isometric. A real classic PD game.
 G183 **TREASURE ISLAND** - Treasure search game for youngsters.
 G286/287 (2 DISKS) **EXORCISM** - Sinister graphic text adventure in a haunted house.
 G283/284/285 (3 DISKS) **KLONDIKE DELUXE AGA** - Fantastic card game. Each card shows a different 256 colour picture. Glamorous ladies.
 G283 **LCD DREAMS** - Four hand held game clones.
 G254 **THE LAST REFUGE** - Entertaining medieval shoot-em-up.
 G255 **AMOS CRICKET** - Cricket game.
 G256 **SHANGHAI** - Oriental tile board game.
 G257 **DELUXE PACMAN** - Great Pacman clone. Much improved over the original. Includes power items besides the normal power pills.
 G256 **BONDMINE #13** - Boulder Clone at it's best. A game not to be missed.
 G268 **SLAMBALL** - Futuristic American football management game. Based on Speedball.
 G269/270 (2 DISKS) **18th HOLE** - Awesome golf game.
 G239 **RAID III** - Game produced using the Shoot-em-up construction kit. Superb graphic detail. It's about the best PD game created using this designer. Looks a bit like SWY.
 G139 **CROAK** - Frogger clone. 2 player mode. You race against a friend at the same time. Great laugh.
 G142 **BATTLEMENTS** - Rescue Esmeralda in the Hunchback clone.
 G158 **BRAIN BALL** - Look looking original puzzle game. Requires great skill, so it's pretty tough.
 G240 **BILLY THE DRAGON** - Easy going cute blaster for kids.
 G196 **CAG** - Produces graphic adventure games. programming knowledge required.
 G88 **21 GAMES** - Chinese Checker, Amiga version. Cosmorrinos, Peg puzzler, Tic tac toe, Bally Ball, Backgammon, Up and down, Deluxe Hangman, Kamikaze chess, Egyptian run.... And loads more.

IN CASE YOU DO NOT SEE A PARTICULAR TITLE YOU ARE LOOKING FOR, ENQUIRE OVER THE PHONE, AND WE WILL BE HAPPY TO TELL YOU WHETHER WE STOCK THE TITLES. THIS MAGAZINE ADVERT IS ONLY A SMALL SELECTION OF WHAT WE HAVE IN STOCK.

PHONE ENQUIRES (MON-FRI 9.00 AM TO 6.00 PM): 0272 741462

PD UTILITIES

Come on down, the price is always right at Tony Horgan's PD barrow. This month's bargains include sound samples, circuit designers and astronomy programs.

Anyway you like 'em folks!

STARVIEW

astronomy



How do you fancy a star map that generates itself almost instantly? Well, that's what you get with Starview. It allows you to see exactly what you would see from anywhere in the world, at any time you specify. Prominent constellations are picked out with dot-to-dot lines, and labelled by name. Mouse-controlled slider bars at the bottom and side of the screen let you scroll around the sky to get the full view. There's even a handy find option, which gives you a list of 48 stars that it can pick out in an instant. A simple zoom slider lets you take a closer look at any particular area and map print outs are also available.

Available from: Barkin Mad, 18 Rhyber Avenue, Lanark, Lanarkshire, ML11 7AL. Disk no. 1370. Price: £1.25 including P+P. **89%**



SMALL BUSINESS SUPER PACK

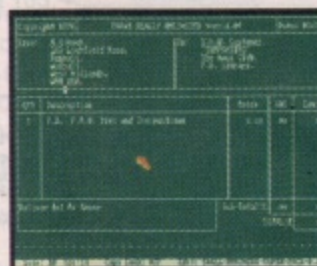
applications compilation

Anyone running a small business using PD software must have quite a job on their hands. However, help has arrived in the shape of the Small Business Super Pack, an expansive 10-disk collection of PD utilities and applications.

On the menu tonight we have: *Butler James* (diary and planning tool), *Biorhythm* (biorhythm chart generator), *Filemaster* (file handling utility), *D Copy 3.1* (copier), *Text Engine 3.0* (word processor), *AZ Spell* (spell checker), *Forms Really Unlimited* (form designer), *House Inventory* (stock / property list), *Graphpaper* (prints out graph paper), *Kill AGA 2.0* (A1200 / A4000 degrader), *Powerdata* (database), *Account Master* (accounting), *Amibase Pro* (database), *600 Business Betters* (examples), *Amiga Fox* (desktop publishing), *Doc Dump* (text utility), *Illinois 3.0* (labelling system).

You get all of this for a tenner, which can't be bad, even if some of the programs are a bit on the shaky side when compared to their commercial counterparts.

Available from: GVB-PD, GV Broad Enterprises, 43 Badger Close, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 2TE. Tel: 0831 649386. Price: £10.00 including P+P. **83%**

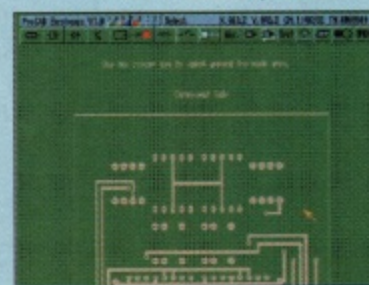


PROCAD ELECTRONIC 1.0

circuit designer

This must be a popular disk, as I've received about six or seven copies of it this month from various sources. It's a CAD program, specifically written for designing circuit boards. Everything's controlled from the mouse, with a strip of bold icons along

the top of the screen. You pick your components from the icon strip, and then lay them down



on the circuit board below. Clicking on the resistor icon for example, lets you cycle through a number of variations on the standard resistor. Diodes and other components also have multiple variants. There's provision for you to load in your custom component parts, there's a useful zoom function and, of course, you can print out your designs once they're finished. A must for all home electronics bods.

Available from: Immediate Arts PD, 26 Lyndhurst Gardens, Glasgow, G20 6QY. Tel: 041 946 5794. Price: £1.00 including P+P. **90%**

COMPLIFIX SAMPLES

sound samples

You can never have enough samples. This two-disk collection of IFF and RAW samples covers the usual range: brass, guitar, keyboards, orchestral and sound effects on disk one, with bass, drums, cymbals and synths on the second one. The quality varies from good to poor, but while I was skipping through the samples, I couldn't help cleaning them up and saving them back out again. Lesson: If you're going to release a set of samples, you really do need to make sure that they sound crisp and pure. After all, most people can record samples, but what makes a collection stand out from the crowd is its quality and originality.

This could have been an impressive set of sounds, and still might be – if you're prepared to work a little with them.

Available from: Compilfix, 16 High Street, Gillingham, Kent, ME4 1BB. Price: £1.00 per disk plus 50p P+P per order. **59%**

DESKTOP GUIDE TO ELECTRONIC MUSIC

instructional guide

This guide contains everything you never wanted to know about synthesisers and includes an informative guide to sound construction.

If you want to know about the physics of how sound travels through air, exactly what a low-pass filter is, and need a crash course in ADSR envelopes, then this program could be useful.

However, this guide is presented in a linear fashion, so, unlike a *Hyperbook* presentation, which would let you jump around from one section to another, this just ploughs on at its own pace, which can be a bit frustrating. Also, most of the tutorial is narrated by dodgy-sounding synthesised speech, backed up by annotated diagrams. If you've only got one floppy drive, there's plenty of disk swapping too. Budding synth designers may like to take a look though.

Available from: Your Choice PD, 39 Lambton Road, Manchester, M21 0ZJ. Tel: 061 881 8994. Disk nos. ED071 a+b+c. Price: £3.90 plus 70p P+P. **58%**



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GRAPHIC UTILS	
U.9	HAMLAB, CONVERTER
U.25	CARTOON BRUSHES
U.28	TALKING COLOURING BOOK
U.38	PICTURE CONVERTERS
U.88	LANDBUILD
U.105	COLOR IT 1.3 KIDS
U.337	SLIDESHOW CONSTRUCTION KIT
U.149	KIDS PAINT
U.167	GRAPHICS CONT KIT
U.194	C-LIGHT
U.239	SCENERY CONSTRUCTION KIT
U.245	A & B GRAPHIC UTILS (2) DISKS
U.65	T.A.C.K. 1.2 THE ANIMATION CONSTRUCTION KIT
U.66	T.A.C.K. MUSIC MODULES
U.67	T.A.C.K. MENU PICTURES
U.79	ANIMATION STUDIO
U.110	LYAUNGAN GENERATOR
U.134	IMAGE UTILS V.GOOD
U.137	SLIDESHOW CREATOR
U.144	COLOR CLIPART 1
U.145	COLOR CLIPART 2
U.171	MOBED 2.5 SPRITE ED
U.194	C-LIGHT V1.6
U.234	MANELBROT GENERATOR
U.272	SPECTRAPAINT
U.340	GRAPHICS GRINDER V.GOOD
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U.32	FONTS DISK 3
U.33	FONTS DISK 4
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U.49	FONTS FOR DPAINT
U.101	100 DPAINT FONTS
U.227	MORE DPAINT FONTS
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U.399	GC FONTS 3
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U.402	GC FONTS 6
U.403	GC FONTS 7
U.403	GC FONTS 7
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U.305	HOW THE EARTH BEGAN
U.306	STREAM ENGINE ANIMATION
U.307	JET ENGINE ANIMATION
U.308	FOUR STROKE ENGINE ANIMATION
U.309	COLOR CYCLEING PICTURES
U.310	THE STERLING ENGINE ANIMATION

CUT TICK & POST

UTILITIES	
U.333	RACE RATER V1.6
U.333	UKSTD CODES & POST CODES
U.37	PRINT STUDIO
U.336	PAY ADVANCE ANALYSER V1.27
U.334	TERM V2.1 MODEM PROG (2) DISK
U.332	DRAWMAP VERY GOOD
U.37	MED 3.1.1 MUSIC PROGRAM
U.59	RELOCKICK 1.3
U.60	LABEL MAKER VERY GOOD
U.64	HAM RADIO UTILS (6) DISKS
U.318	IMPLORDER 4 DISK CRUNCHER
U.75	500+ EMULATOR
U.76	MESSYSID V2.0
U.99	LABELBASE VERY GOOD
U.324	TRINOCAD ELECTRICAL CIRCUIT
U.111	COMPUGRAPHIC FONTS
U.120	FONT FARM BRILLIANT
U.385	A.VISION & SOUND 2001 DISK 1NEW
U.385	A.VISION & SOUND 2001 DISK 2NEW
U.341	HP550 PRINTER DRIVERS & OTHERS
U.058	LOCKPICK 1
U.317	LOCKPICK 2 OK 1200 & PLUS
U.316	IBM PC EMULATOR V1.63 DEMO
U.082	GATORS GRAPHIC GALLERY
U.327	THIS DISKWILL HELP WITH DPAINT
U.113	STOCK ANALYST DEMO
U.314	SPECTRUM EMULATOR V1.7
U.314A	SPECTRUM GAMES OK 1200+
FRED FISH DISKS	
I STOCK 1-950	
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U.226	TV GRAPHICS
U.237	A/B VIDEO & ANIM UTILS 2 DISKS
U.252	INSCRIPT TITLING PROGRAM
ANIMATIONS	
A144	MEAN CD MACHINE 4 megs (4) disks
A144	Watch the CD 32 kbit the CDI & MEGA CD
A144	LAST STAND ON HOTL 2 MEG (4) DISKS
A144	2 WAYS TO STOP SMOKING 1.5 MEG
A127	3 WAYS TO KILL A MOLE. SICK
A128	3 MORE WAYS TO KILL A MOLE
LOTS MORE ANIMATIONS IN CATALOGUE DISK	

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SHAREWARE MANAGER V2.03	
Keep track of your shares.	
FILEMASTER. Will let you move files from disk to disk.	
DCOPY 3.1 Backup your important disks	
BioRhythms. Is an intuition based program that shows the basic biohythms intellectually, emotionally & physically plus an average curve.	
BUTLER JAMES. A very good diary & planning tool.	
DISK 2	
TEXTENGINE V4.1 1991-93	
- Brand new screen layout	
- Text searcher facility.	
- 128kb text buffer	
- Built-in spell checker with 36,000 word dictionary.	
- Fully WB2 (and above) compatible with enhanced features on these.	
- ASCII files can be loaded and saved with ease	
- 12 text styles available for use with any preferences supported printer	
- Up to 99 copies of a document can be printed at once	
- Complete configuration options covering page margins, macros (function keys) and colour palette.	
- Both PAL and NTSC monitors are supported, with the choice of hi-res displays	
- Full wrap	
DISK 3	
FORMS REALLY UNLIMITED V1.4	
NOW YOU CAN PRODUCE YOUR OWN INVOICES	
ALSO MANY OTHER PAPER BASED FORMS LETTERS	
DEMANDS BEGGING LETTERS	
DISK 4	
HOUSE INVENTORY	
KILL AGA V2.0	
GRAPH PAPER	
POWERDATA	
DOCS DISKS	
DKS 21 JOLLY ROGERS COOK BOOK 3.	
THIS IS THE ONE THEY MAKE ALL THE	
FUSS ABOUT IN THE SUN.	
DKS 60 THE FINAL FRONTIER (4) DISKS	
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PD UTILITIES

Another PD bargain comes your way with **HAM Lab Plus**, possibly the best PD image processor in the world, according to DJ Walker-Morgan.

HAM LAB PLUS

image processor

While *ImageFX* and *AdPro* forge ahead in the image processing game, *HAM Lab Plus* offers an alternative to anyone who doesn't want to break the bank.

You can load it in a number of ways: from the Graphics User Interface (GUI), from the Shell or from *ARexx*. All the modes have the same facilities, except for the GUI which lacks a batch directory mode, which would have helped in file handling.

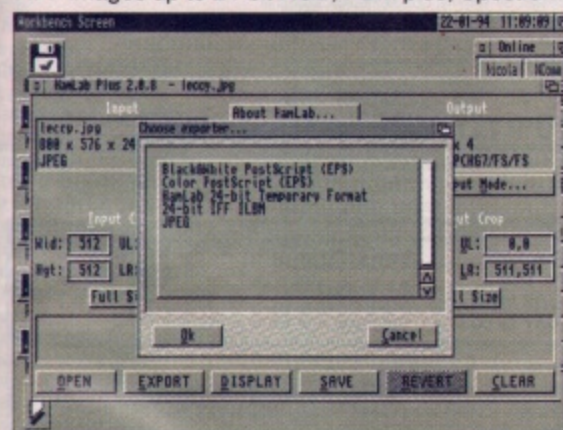
HAM Lab Plus has a wide range of filters for importing images, including GIF87 and GIF89 TIFF images up to 24-bit RGB, PBM plus, Spectrum

converter. For those who like to add their own converters, both for input and output, there are hooks in *HAM Lab Plus* for both. You can install them by either asking *HAM Lab Plus* to scan its filter directories, or by editing its configuration files.

Although the configuration files can be a bit daunting, it's here that you'll find the underlying flexibility of *HAM Lab Plus*. With control over everything from requester positions and contents, caching, scaling, palettes and more, you can set up the program to suit your exact requirements.

If you want to automate your image conversions, there is an *ARexx* port and console, but you only need to use this if the command line batch options aren't flexible enough for you. I've rarely needed to go near it, because the command line seems to think of pretty much everything.

I find it hard to pick holes in

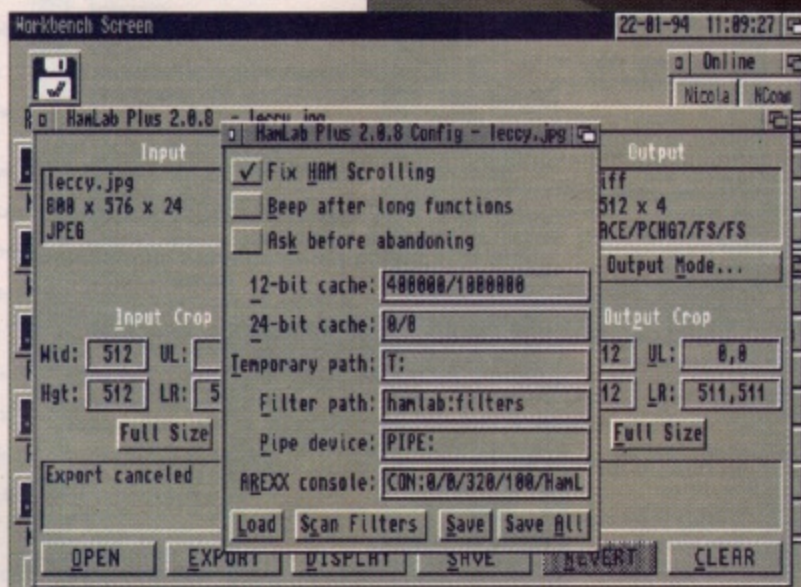


HAM Lab Plus offers a reasonably-priced alternative to *ImageFX* and *AdPro*.

512, IFF (1 to 8 planes, HAM, HAM-E, SHAM, Dynamic Hi-res and PCHG), TARGA, JPEG/JFIF and Windows BMP files. The image can then be exported as IFF, JPEG, or Encapsulated Postscript File. On top of that, the image can be rendered into a whole range of IFF formats.

The user interface is a simple but effective design. To convert an image, just follow the buttons across the bottom of the window: Open, Display, Export or Save. To set up the rendering mode, click the Change Output Mode button and sit back, bemused at the range of options. In order to get the best possible end result, *HAM Lab Plus* gives you plenty of options for your destination image, such as screen resolution, number of colours, type of dithering and so on. For example, my favourite set-up for photographic images is 4 plane, Hi-res, Interlaced, sliced palette, PCHG save, with a double Floyd Steinberg dither (*whatever turns you on - Ed*). This gives results which are, in my opinion, the cleanest from any converter. In this area it out-performs both *AdPro* and *ImageFX*, which are geared more towards 24-bit graphics that tend not to break up so much in the conversion process.

Once you have the image up on screen, you can crop it down to size. Any colour imbalances can be adjusted from here. There are no fancy effects modes beyond this - *HAM Lab Plus* is primarily a



With control over everything in *Ham Lab Plus*, from requester positions and contents, caching, scaling and more, you can set up the program to suit your exact requirements.

HAM Lab Plus. It has all the right bits in all the right places, is sparing with memory, reasonably quick, has never crashed on me and it gives me oodles of control over rendering process. The only thing that annoys me is when saving the configuration from the GUI; the configuration screen itself sometimes seems to pop up in the process, but this is a fairly minor niggle, and is easily fixed by editing the con-



figuration file directly. The shareware demo version lets you use all of the facilities, the restriction being that it will automatically crop input images to 512x512.

Since registration to lift that restriction and receive regular

updates is only a measly \$25, it's well worth it. If you do anything with images, *HAM Lab Plus* is a worthy addition to your armoury of utilities, even if you already have *ImageFX* or *AdPro*.

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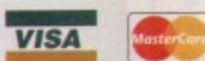
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Retargetable Graphics (RTG) is the future of Amiga graphics display technology. True RTG means that a graphics device will not be restricted by the memory limitations of the host system's Chip memory, or by the speed of the custom chips.

The Picasso II RTG Emulator integrates seamlessly into the Amiga operating system to give the most reliable emulation available. The new resolutions provided by the Picasso II appear in all your applications as new screen modes selectable from the standard ScreenMode requester. For any program that allows you to choose a new screen mode, you would simply choose a Picasso II screen mode as an alternative, (such as Picasso:1280 x 1024).

The Picasso II is designed to take full advantage of the host computer system. The built in Blitter and high speed memory subsystem mean that you will have super fast screen updates. Switching between Picasso II mode screens is very fast and switching between Picasso II mode screens and native Amiga screens is nearly instantaneous (as fast as your monitor can re-sync). Because the Picasso II RTG board does not use Chip RAM, your Amiga will be less likely to suffer from bus contention problems normally associated with running high resolution screens and heavy DMA activity.

The Picasso II RTG emulator has been designed so that it uses no Chip RAM. All available screen modes on the Picasso II use only Fast RAM. This sophisticated design means that even a 1Mb Picasso II board can support as many high resolution 256 colour screens as will fit in the Fast RAM of your system.

The Picasso II comes with several screen modes and resolutions that are industry standard and for which all monitors are designed. These modes operate at the proper scan rates and frequencies in order to take advantage of the most popular monitors available. In some instances, where those modes may not be sufficient, there is a program that will allow you to create your own custom screen modes. You will be able to create screen modes that exactly match your monitors frequencies and resolution capabilities. Picasso II comes with Personal Paint Lite, MainActor (animation program), IFF, GIF, JPEG and MPEG Viewers and drivers for ADPro, Image FX, Imagemaster and Real3D. Other bundles are available too.

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EMPLANT

EMPLANT will revolutionise the way you use your Amiga! Imagine one card offering multiple emulations that ALL multi-task (after all, isn't that the way the Amiga was meant to work!)

The supplied Mac emulation boasts full colour (16 ECS, 256 AGA, 16.7 Million with supported graphics cards) and superb Stereo Sound.

EMPLANT supports Hard Drives, (via on-board SCSI or AmigaDOS partitions), Hard Files, MAC 800k (via Mac drive adaptor), MAC/IBM 1.44Mb, IBM 720K, EMPLANT and AMAX formats. The SCSI interface supports both Amiga peripherals and the peripherals of the emulated system at transfer rates of over 1Mb/Sec.

EMPLANT supports AppleTalk, Serial ports, Printers, Modems, Midi etc. You may use SYQuest, any AmigaDOS device (DH, RAD, VDO, etc), Scanners, Graphics Tablets, CD ROM with the emulation.

Emulation speed is exceptional and compatibility is excellent. All known software runs!

The IBM 386/486 emulation is to be released in the new year, with Atari ST/Falcon, C64/128, SNES/SEGA, Apple II (among others) all planned in the future. These will be available as low cost upgrade modules.

EMPLANT currently supports any Zorro equipped Amiga with the A1200 PCMCIA version out soon. The Mac emulation alone requires 68020/30/40 with 4Mb RAM minimum and also 256K Mac II/x/cx/SE30 ROMs.

EMPLANT can be expanded to provide 2Mb of battery-backed static RAM and has an audio digitiser built in! Other add-ons are planned. Also incorporated is a File Transfer system between Amiga/Mac/PC

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WaveTools feature set meets the needs of the most demanding users. Audio is recorded directly onto any hard disk drive in Amiga compatible AIFF16 stereo files. Multiple waveform windows may be opened simultaneously and audio can be cut and pasted between open files to facilitate building complex audio tracks. In addition to cut and paste WaveTools supports digital mixing of unlimited numbers of tracks. Using WaveTool Mixer, you can layer sound upon sound to produce rich, full audio tracks that have the quality of studio made multitrack recordings. Using WaveTools extensive editing and mixing functions you can sweeten your basic tracks with overdubs, perform ADR, and place sound effects at specified points in the soundtrack. Best of all, since WaveTools is processing audio in the digital domain, there is no generational loss or noise increase normally associated with outdated analogue mixers and recorders. WaveTools is able to sample data at a variety of sampling rates as low as 19KHz as well as the standard rates of 44.1KHz and 48KHz for CD and DAT compatibility. WaveTools includes a waveform editor for cut, copy, paste and mix operations on selected portions of audio waveforms. Edits can be tagged as destructive or non-destructive. WaveTools also maintains an internal time code in the format of SMPTE 24, 8 and 30 frames per second to ensure perfect synchronisation of your audio files with video and animation, if required.

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G274 MR DUG - Remember DUGGER in the arcade a few years back
G329 MADONNA NUDE PUZZLES - Total 15 puzzles (jigsaw type)
G330 TOP SECRET - Brilliant platform games similar to OCEAN RAINBOW & PARASOL (not A1200)
G333 CYBER-NETIC - The best defender type games with all usual powerup
G334 DONKEY KONG - Rescue your girls from donkey kong (not A1200)
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G441 E TYPE 2 - Simply the best asteroid clone ever
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G460 WIBBLE WORLD GIDDY - Brilliant platform collect/jump game with very large & cute graphics similar to the DIZZY series
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G490 MEGA BALL 2 - Version 2 of this highly playable breakout clone
G500 TRANSPLANT - Voted the best game of 93, brilliant E TYPE clone but much better, loads of power up levels
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G530 MAD FIGHTER (A1200 only) - Superb street fighter 2 clone
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E010 SIMON & SPACE MATHS - Maths program & computer version of Simon games
E011 EDUCATION PACK 1 (5 disks) - Lots of education programs range from Maths to games. We recommend you buy this collection
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DEMOS

D011 MULTITASKING - Demo of what is multitasking
D016 DEAD DANCE THRASH - Very good dance music based demo
D050 PINK FLOYD THE WALL (6 disks) - Massive music & demo
D091 STAR WARS DEMO (2 disk and A500 only) - Super starwar demo, lots of Xwing anim
D107 ODDYSEE (5 disk & A500 only) - Incredible 40 minute movies
D118 STAR TREK MEGA DEMO A (A500, A1200)
D119 STAR TREK MEGA DEMO B - Please order with above
D120 1911 VOYAGE (A500, A500 plus/A600, A1200) - Brilliant demo lot of fill vector, great fx
D152 THE ELECTRIC TOUCH - Multi demo usual scroll vector etc
D164 CREATURE COMFORT DEMO (A500 only) - Simple demo based on the British gas advert
D168 SILENCE OF THE LAMBS - Akira Manga Collection (6 disks)
D251 MANGA WORLD - Brilliant manga slideshow
D252 JAPANESE LANG - Learn how to speak Japanese
D253 SUNTEAM GG ESUAT - Esuwat games
D254 AKIRA DEMO - Akira Manga demo
D255 TROOP JUGENNOT 1 - Story & games
D256 MANGA WORLD 2 - More Manga slide show
D257 SUNTEAM QUIZ - Quiz
D258 MAKE IT SO EASY - Guess
D261 FONTIER - Incredible Elite 2 demo animation

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AGA433 FIT CHICK VOL 2
AGA436 FIT CHICK VOL 3
AGA439 FIT CHICK VOL 4 - Yet more super girl pics
AGA450 RETINA EURO 1 - Brilliant A1200 only demo
AGA451 MIND WARP - Great planet groove demo by Team Hol

ANIMATION

A013 SPACE PROBE - Spaceprobe search for alien lifeform
A022 LUXO TEENAGERS - Incredible ray trace animation, recommended
A072 LIFE A BITCH (18+ only) - We all know life's a bitch
A173 HELL RAISER 2 SLIDESHOW - Very creepy horror slideshow from the films
A175 THE LIVING WORLD SLIDESHOW - Creepy slideshow of microscopic insects
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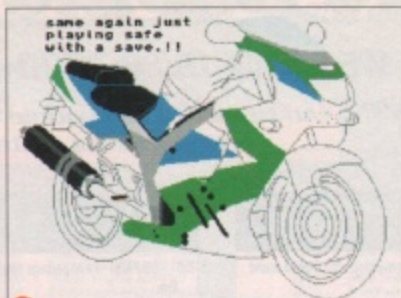
ART GALLERY

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Salary, salary, I'm paid to view your
artistry. Keep 'em coming, people.



LION-O

The lord of the *Thundercats*, Lion-O, is one of the more imposing moggies I've ever come across. Here he is in AGA mode, courtesy of Stephen Clarke from Thornton Heath.



1 The outline was sketched from a photo in *Bike* magazine.



2 The first blocks of colour are added to the image.



ZX-9R KAWASAKI

Bike fans beware, as Mike Whiteman of Aylesbury steps in with his doodles of one of his favourite speed machines.

RACHAEL

Blade Runner fans will recognise this one straight away. The lovely Rachael was drawn by T.E. Boyce of Peckham.



BATMAN & VICKI VALE

T.E. Boyce of Peckham, again, is the person responsible for this superb digital rendering of the caped crusader.



1 All the major features of the image were sketched in free-hand using a light grey brush.



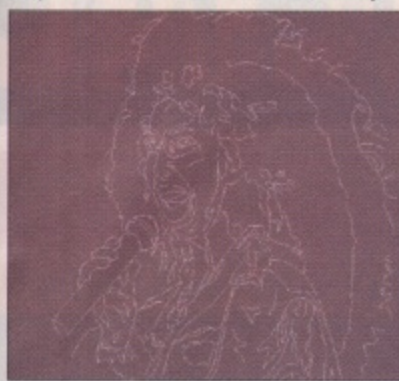
2 Vicki Vale's face was drawn on a separate screen and then pasted onto the main image.



3 The main colours are blocked out, and then the detail is added slowly but surely.

CHER

If she could turn back time, would she want to look like this? This is the question posed by Stephen Clarke of Thornton Heath, Surrey.



1 The first step, as always, is to come out with an outline. This was traced onto clear film and laid over the screen. Then Steve drew underneath it.



2 The palette was set, and colours were blocked out.



3 Using fill and magnify, Steve added all the facial details.



4 A quick change to the screen resolution, a bit of touching up on the wonky eye from the earlier versions and the picture is complete.



5 Finally, the Smoothing function is brought in to clear the whole thing up.

Got a question?

Any and all Amiga questions answered. Why wait for months to get a vague answer in one of the Amiga magazines, when you can rely on the authority of a longstanding Amiga industry expert?

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CU AMIGA SPECIAL

Welcome to our new look readers' offers. This month sees the launch of our new upgrades for the Amiga A1200.

Unlike some A1200 upgrades, ours are fully PCMCIA compatible. Designed and built in the UK exclusively for CU Amiga - never has it been so affordable to upgrade an A1200 with more memory on a board also capable of adding a 68882 floating point maths co-processor at speeds of up to 50MHz.

How can we be so cheap? Well, thanks to the huge success of our campaign to upgrade all Amigas to a minimum of 1Mb, we have exceptional buying power. Also, because so many of our readers buy upgrades we can use the very latest manufacturing technology to produce our upgrades - and hence give you exceptional value.

So why upgrade your memory? Probably because a memory upgrade is the most versatile enhancement you can make to your Amiga. Apart from the fact that you need it to run the more powerful Amiga software there are many extra benefits too. You can use some of it as a RAM disk, just like a super-fast extra floppy drive. This means you can avoid the cost of a second floppy drive or hard disk. Some software that claims to need a hard disk will run on your Amiga from a RAM disk. A print spooler can save you time waiting for your printer to finish printing before you get on with your work, use your new RAM instead of upgrading your printer or buying an expensive buffer.

For reasons best known to themselves, Commodore 'forgot' a realtime clock for the A1200. Well, we've put it back with our new UK made A1200 clock for just £12.99. Getting more from your Amiga means at least 1Mb, getting the best means adding as much RAM as you can is the essential Amiga upgrade!

MOUSE



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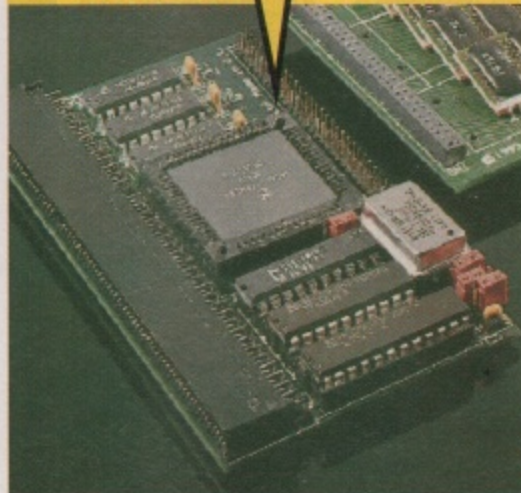
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- ☐ A500+ upgrade to 2Mb£22.99
- ☐ A600 upgrade to 2Mb£24.99
- ☐ A600 upgrade to 2Mb
including clock£34.99
- ☐ A1200 upgrade to 4Mb£149.00
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with 25 MHz 68882£179.00
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ALL DISKS COMPATIBLE WITH ALL AMIGA'S WHEN DISK K001 - DISKSTART V1.3 IS USED ON A500+/A600/A1200/A4000

GAMES

G010 - POM POM GUNNER - Great graphics in this operation wolf style shoot em up.
G011 - AIR ACE 2 - A great World War 2 shoot em up.
G013 - THE REVENGE - Play ED-209 from Robocop in this violent shoot em up.
G015 - MEGABALL - A game that has received excellent reviews.
G016 - SIMPSONS - Televisions wacky family brought to life in this shoot em up construction kit game.
G020 - LAME ST-PORTS - A space invaders type game, the object being to defeat Atari.
G021 - MASTER OF THE TOWN - The aim of this game is to cause as much damage as possible.
G025 - DRAGONS CAVE - A dungeon master style puzzle game.
G026 - DOWN HILL CHALLENGE - Good ski simulator.
G028 - PIPELINE - Classic game but too fast on A1200/A4000 due to superior processor.
G039 - SMURFHUNT - Plenty of gun power in this shoot em up.
G040 - PARADOX - Funky puzzle game.
G043 - WIBBLE WORLD GIDDY - A superb platform game. This is one of the best public domain games ever.
G047 - SUPER PAKMAN - If you like Pak games, then get this!!! The best version to date.
G048 - NEIGHBOURS - (2 disks) An excellent graphic adventure, probably the best ever in PD.
G049 - FIGHTING WARRIORS - Budget version of Streetfighter 2 with good graphics.
G050 - BOMB JACKY - The spectrum classic with vastly improved graphics and sound.
G055 - TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE - Inspired by a true story G056 - 18 HOLE GOLF - The first ever public domain golf game. Great fun. (2 disks)
G057 - SPACE INVADERS 2 - A revised version of the classic game.
G059 - AMOS CRICKET - A good cricket simulator written in Amos.
G060 - TRON 2 - If you liked the original, then you can't miss this update. Faster and improved presentation.
G061 - ESCAPE - The aim of this excellent game is to run over tiles pushing specific ones down to open gates which allow you to reach the exit. Do it within a time limit to progress.
G062 - DR. MARIO - Similar to a NES game of similar name but better graphics.
G063 - ASSAULT - This average game involves you shooting all the characters that pop up in the windows.
G064 - DEATH BINGERS IN SPACE - A Xenon style shoot em up.
G065 - ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE - Good fun with lots of blood and guts.
G066 - STARIANS - Bizarre platform game.
G067 - SUPER SKODA CHALLENGE - A good game for up to four players with track editor etc.
G068 - PREMIER PICKS - Very unique football management game, very well presented.
G069 - BILLY BURGLAR - Dodge lights to escape from prison.
G070 - AMIGABOY - The n game Tetris is widely regarded as its best on the Gameboy. It has now been perfectly converted, with exact visual representation.
G071 - ACT OF WAR - A game of similar style to risk.
G072 - ADAMS FAMILY QUIZ - How much do you know?
G073 - PARACHUTE JOUST - Guide the skydiver to the ground.
G074 - CARD SHARP - Various card games.
G075 - JEWEL - A brilliant game.
G076 - TOP SECRET - Sorry, can't tell you!!!
G077 - JELLY QUEST - This game by David McGuire was described by Amiga Power quote "It's a superior brand of PD puzzle game, and its looks can only be described as - dead lush!" It went on to receive a 4 out of 5 star rating.
G078 - VENUS INVADERS - Excellent new version of space invaders.
G079 - THE RIGHT WAY - A great lemmings clone.
G080 - SUPER PRIX - A birds-eye-view racing game.
G081 - PATIENCE - The best public domain version of this card game.

UTILITIES

U001 - THE ULTIMATE BACKUP DISK - All the very best public domain copiers including DCopy, Tetracopy and XCopy.
U013 - BUSINESS CARD MAKER - A utility that can give professional results for use with any printer.
U021 - SYSTEM X - A telephone directory on disk. It even dials the number!!!
U136 - 600 BUSINESS LETTERS - Over 600 letters of basic format ready for quick and simple modification in any word processor.
U139 - PRINTER DRIVERS DISK - An excellent selection of drivers to get your printer working perfectly.
U140 - LABEL MAKER - Excellent utility allowing you to make your own disk labels. We have added several fonts to give you more design options.
U153 - MULTIPLYER - Can play virtually any type of music module.
U167 - WINDOWBENCH - A replacement for Workbench V1.3 in the style of Microsoft Windows.
U168 - GAME TAMER V2.2 - Loads of cheats (over 250) for use in many top games.
U176 - UNDERSTANDING AMOS - A very useful learning aid.
U178 - AGRAPH - Create all kinds of pie charts, bar charts and line graphs.
U179 - CLI TUTOR - Loads of hints and tips.
U180 - DISK OPTIMISER - Speeds up loading by up to 15 times.
U181 - FORMS UNLIMITED - Create your own invoices and other forms with this neat utility.
U183 - MAGNUM - Create your own disk based magazine.
U184 - EDWORD - Excellent text editor.
U185 - POOLS PREDICTION - If you need more help (or money) try this disk.
U186 - VMORPH V2.0 - Excellent utility that allows you to create morph/warp animation. Requires 1MB.
U187 - THE MENU DISK - If you are interested in creating your own compilations etc. then get this disk. Its perfect for added presentation.
U188 - CLUB LEAGUE - A utility that allows you to edit and keep track of your teams division and league status.
U189 - SCREEN BLANKERS - A disk packed with screen blankers.
U190 - THE LITTLE OFFICE - One of the best small business programs available at the moment. Very popular.
U191 - VOICE CLI V5.5 - This utility allows you to control CLI with speech.
U192 - ACCOUNT MASTER - Written in Amos this is a very popular business utility of excellent quality.
U193 - SOFTWARE LISTER - This program is designed to keep track of your software collection.
U194 - DISKPRINT V3.5 - An integrated database and disk label printing utility.
U195 - RACE V1.6 - A disk that will work out the chance of a horse winning a race.
U196 - DRAW MAP V4.1 - There are two versions, this is the 1MB version. It allows you to create 2D and 3D maps. Quote U296 for 2MB version, which comes on 2 disks.
U197 - FOOTBALL LEAGUE EDITOR V1.1 - As soon as the results come in, you can monitor your teams latest position.
U198 - GOLF SCORES V1.8 - It can record the results of every round you play, store them and give an overall electronic score.
U199 - ANTI FLICKER - An aid to stop the flicker in Hi-Res mode during some programs operations.
U200 - AMICASH BANKIN - If you have a small business, this program is the best of its nature and highly recommended.
U201 - PUNT PROGRAM - Another prediction aid for the horses.
U202 - MONEY MANAGEMENT - Home accounts package capable of handling up to 12 different accounts.
U203 - EASY CALC V1.0 - This spreadsheet is designed to be both very user friendly and fast. It has an excellent built in help system.
U204 - KEYBOARD TRAINER V1.1 - Best public domain typing tutor available at present.
U205 - M-CAD - Computer aided design program.
U206 - NO ERRORS - Hides the hard errors on disks making all your corrupt disks usable once again.
U208 - 203 UTILITIES - The most utilities ever available on a single disk.

UTILITIES

U209 - UNDELETE - This utility allows you to get back stuff that was accidentally deleted from disk.
U210 - JOYSTICK TESTER - A brilliant joystick testing program.
U211 - RED SECTOR DEMO MAKER - A 2 meg version of the most popular utility ever!!! Create stunning demos/megademos/intros. The special thing is that it has been modified to work with the A500+ and even better the A1200. (2 drives rec. A1200)
U212 - AIBB V5 - A good diagnostic program.
U213 - SYS INFO V3.11 - A disk that will let you know the technical status of your machine.
U214 - ENGINEERS KIT - A diagnostic disk, specially suited for engineers etc.
U215 - DISK REPAIRERS - Will allow you to try and make all your unusable disks work again.
U216 - AMIGA DIAGNOSTICS - Solve thousands of amiga problems with this diagnostics disk.
U217 - LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT - Write your own will.
U218 - MUSIC BASE UTILITY - Store your record/video collection.
U219 - ERROR INFO - Gives you a list of all amiga error codes and their meanings.
U220 - PC TASK V2.02 - IBM PC emulator it allows you to run the majority of PC software with no additional hardware. Now supports VGA, CGA and MDA. (DV)
U222 - REPAIR-IT 3 - Contains a selection of disk and hard drive repairing utilities. Excellent for saving that vital file.
U224 - SPECTRUM EMULATOR - This is the best and latest version of the most popular emulator for the amiga. There are 68020/030 versions for new AGA amigas. (2 disks)
U225 - STOCK ANALYST - This is a technical analysis and securities tracking program which calculates when to buy and sell shares.
U226 - ASTRONOMY V2.0 - A menu driven astronomy program that calculates information about the Sun, Moon and planets. Help disk.
U227 - MING SHI CHINESE ASTROLOGY - Will create horoscopes in seconds. The complete aid.
U228 - COLOURED ICONS - Transfer your disks into colourful, well presented works of art with this database.
U229 - KIDS PAINT - An art package simplified for the younger amiga owners.
U230 - STAR VIEW - This program is designed to show graphically the positions of the stars and planets from any part of the earth.
U231 - AQUARIUM - Turns your screen into an eye catching fish tank.
U232 - OCTAMED V2 - Latest version of the famous music package.
U233 - NUMPAD FOR A600 - A program that makes the A600 think its got a numeric keypad.
U234 - ADDRESS PRINT V3.1 - Very useful if you make regular postal correspondence.
U235 - IFF BOOT - Displays a picture whilst your hard disk boots up.
U237 - PAY ADVICE ANALYSER - A very useful program for keeping track of pay, tax and national insurance.
U238 - CANNON PRINT STUDIO - Got a Cannon printer? This disk is essential for brilliant results.
U239 - FANCY PRINTING DISK - Contains Banner, Graph Paper V1.2 and Disk Print V3.5.
U240 - BBASEIII - An easy to use versatile, yet fully featured database. Greatly enhanced successor to bBaseII.
U241 - ADM V1.01 - Flexible address database with loads of great features.
U242 - LITTLE TRAVELLER V1.1 - This utility shows a world map and allows you to select any country for travel information. It then zooms in giving a close-up map with more information.
U243 - BANNER MAKER - Create spectacular printed banners.
U265 - PROTECTION - Keep unwanted users from playing with your amiga.
U266 - PARBENCH - Link up two Amiga's and communicate with each other.
U283 - TEXTENGINE V4.1 - Sent direct from author Nicholas Harvey, this excellent program has all known bugs fixed. Has 36,000 word spell checker.

EDUCATION

E001 - TOTAL CONCEPTS DINOSAURS - A book on disk appropriate for sensational Jurassic Park movie. Get it!!!
E002 - SCIENCE - Excellent learning aid to the difficult subject. (4 disks)
E003 - FRACTIONS AND SILHOUETTES - Good maths utility.
E004 - WORLD WAR 2 - Good history aid.
E006 - WORLD GEOGRAPHY - Very useful utility.
E007 - KIDS DISK 1 - Excellent reading utility.
E008 - LEARN AND PLAY 1 - For younger amiga users, very popular.
E009 - LEARN AND PLAY 2 - See above, usually ordered as a 2 disk set.
E010 - GCSE MATHS - Good, written by a teacher of the subject.
E011 - LANGUAGE TUTOR - French, Spanish, German and Italian.
E012 - AMIGAWORLD - This piece of educational software contains details on every country.

DEMOS

D004 - ARSEWIPE - Hilarious toilet role commercial.
D007 - FILLET THE FISH - Cartoon animation.
D019 - SIMPSONS SLIDESHOW - Pictures of televisions wacky family.
D023 - PUGGS IN SPACE - Another cartoon animation from the same person who brought you Fillet the Fish.
D025 - SAM FOX - Slideshow.
D035 - RUDE NOISES - Hilarious samples.
D036 - FAST CARS - Pictures of the worlds most exotic cars.
D074 - MADONNA LIKE A VIRGIN - Music put to naked slideshow of Madonna.
D091 - SAFE SEX DEMO - Hilarious mixed samples.
D114 - NEIGHBOURS SLIDESHOW - Very old but still amusing pictures of the cast with drawn on special effects.
D121 - GIRLS ON FILM - Digitised animation.
D129 - SHOWERING GIRLS - Colour digitised slideshow.
D138 - WAR SIMULATOR - Samples that could get you a day off school or work. Sounds of sickness and war. Try it down the phone!!!
D198 - BASIC INSTINCT - Digitised pictures from the film.
D199 - STRIP SLOT MACHINE

VIDEO ART

U026 - TV GRAFFIX - Loads of backdrops etc. for use with genlock. Also fonts for DPaint. (2 disks)
U169 - HARLEQUIN VIDEO ART 1 - Excellent collection of backdrops of superb quality for use with genlock.
U171 - HARLEQUIN FONTS 1 - Loads of excellent Hi-Res fonts.
U172 - HARLEQUIN FONTS 2 - More of the above.

VIRUS KILLER

V001 - SUPERKILLERS - Highly recommended as it could save you ££'s. Essential for hard disk owners. With no virus protection you are putting your entire software collection at risk. Regular updates to keep in touch with all virus activity. Separate versions for AGA machines.
All our disks are virus free.

MUSIC

MD01 - MUSIC MODULES - A massive 10 disk collection of good quality music modules. All of soundtracker file type for use with RSI Demo maker, Noiseplayer and many other applications.

AGA SECTION

A019 TO A023 - WEIRD SCIENCE - Excellent quality pictures. (5 disks - available separately)
A024 - FIT CHICKS - A collection of girly pictures for the A1200 only. (2 disks)
A025 - FREAKS BODY SHOP - A small selection of girly pictures.
A030 - FERRARI PICTURES - Pictures of a new model from the worlds most exotic car maker. Good 256 colour pictures.
A036 - NIGHTBREAD - Many pictures drawn in 256 colours. (2 disks)
G042 - AGA TETRIS - Controlled with the cursor keys, this excellent conversion of probably the most addictive game ever is now available with 256 colour graphics.
G082 - AGA CHESS - An excellent game but you will need 4mb of ram to get it to work!!!
U001 - ULTIMATE BACKUP DISK - This compilation includes DCopy V3.0 which is probably the only copy that works successfully on the A1200/A4000.
U123 - WORKBENCH HACKS - Many useless special effects for workbench V3.0
U118 - MORE WORKBENCH HACKS - Guess what?
U255 - WB V3.0 INSTALL - If you need to install your hard disk then you need this.
U256 - A1200 DEGRADERS - An essential purchase for AGA owners. Includes Fake Fast Mem, The Degraded Diskstart, Kill AGA V2 and Helpful hints.
U257 - VIEWTEK V1.03 - An essential purchase allowing you to display AGA graphics.
U258 - HDMEM - This utility allows your AGA machine to use your hard disk as virtual memory. If you've got a 80mb hard disk then you can have 80mb ram. Requires FMU, MMU etc.
U272 - WORKBENCH V3.0 SCREENS - Improve the appearance of workbench with these excellent backdrops.
D181 - TEAM HOI PLANNER GROOVE - This was the worlds first ever AGA megademo.
D195 - PANTARHEI - A new AGA megademo. With amazing sound, graphics and colours.
D197 - TEAM HOI 2 - Sequel to the first ever megademo.

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WORLD +45p DISK (MIN £2)

AMIGA Workshop



ISSUE 16 APRIL

For those who read the magazine backwards, welcome to the April issue of **CU AMIGA**. If it's top tips you want, you've come to the right place, because that's what **Amiga Workshop** is all about. With the best tutorials on the planet, our crack team of experts are here to help you get the most out of your Amiga. Whether you're into video, music, programming, comms, graphics, **ARexx** or **DTP**, there's plenty to get your teeth into here. Then there's a special two-part **Q+A** to solve all your problems, the monthly rant in **Points of View**, and **Backchat** where readers air their views on all things Amiga. Dive in!

Regulars

166 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

It's the Mat and John show! And here they are again... Mat and John! Can we have the first question please? Yes, the man at the back with the big nose and the paisley shirt... "My Amiga doesn't work, what's wrong with it?". Turn to page 166 to find out.

174 BACKCHAT

Got something to say? Then don't bottle it up, get it off your chest and let the world know about it in **Backchat**. This month we also spill the beans on the **CU AMIGA**'s childhood heroes. Hooray!

178 POINTS OF VIEW

In years to come, they'll be asking: "Whatever happened to those good old chainsaw massacre computer games?". Well, it's a thought, isn't it? Tony Dillon debates the idea of movie-style censorship for computer games: will it really save humanity, or will it just sell more games to the wrong people?

PETER LEE'S DPAINT MASTERCLASS



148

Your A1200 might have a whopping 2Mb of RAM, but animation still eats memory at a frightening rate. Thankfully, Peter Lee is on hand to give some handy RAM-saving tips in part 3 of his **DPaint AGA Masterclass**. Hooray for Peter as he helps us save our memories.

VIDEO VISUALS



152

With the help of our *Scala Home Titrer* coverdisk from the February issue, Jason Holborn tells us that classy video titling needn't cost an arm and a leg, and shows us that professional results are possible with nothing more than your Amiga, Scala and a home VCR.

AMIGADOS PROBLEM SOLVER



154

You got a problem mate? Want to make something of it? See John Kennedy. He's got the answers to all those nagging problems that Workbench and AmigaDos love to throw at you, like how to make assignments and jazz up your Workbench icons.

COMMS



155

Wired World's John Armitage investigates the underhand tricks of the modern virus, and suggests a few remedies and helplines for infected cyberpunks. So if you're being pestered by a nasty virus, and I don't mean the common cold, read this.

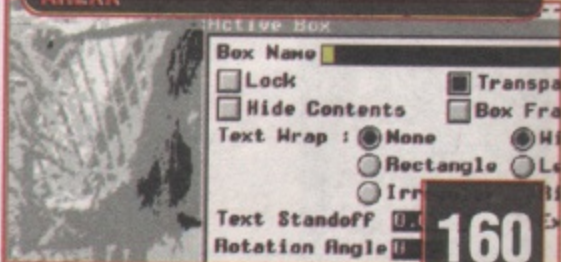
BLITZ BASIC



157

Not one, not two, but three ways to use your Blitter with *Blitz Basic* are explained in detail by the man who has almost the same name as the Holborn Viaduct. Yes, it's good old Jason Holborn, *Blitzing* over your troubles waters once again.

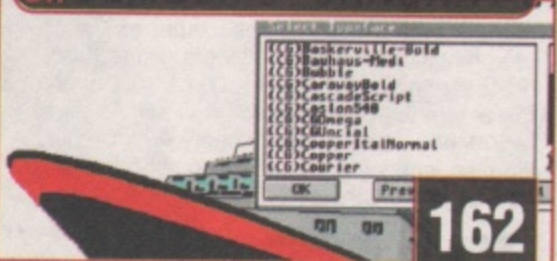
AREXX



160

Apparently, Dave Smithson was wearing his wellies when he wrote this month's *ARexx* tutorial, but don't let that put you off, because then you might never learn how to get *ARexx* to do all those jobs you hate (unfortunately this doesn't include the washing up).

DTP



162

What do you really need for a decent DTP setup? In the final part of this series, John Dodds takes a look at the world of DTP including graphics boards, scanners, monitors and software that can turn your Amiga into a publishing powerhouse.

TONY HORGAN'S SOUND LAB

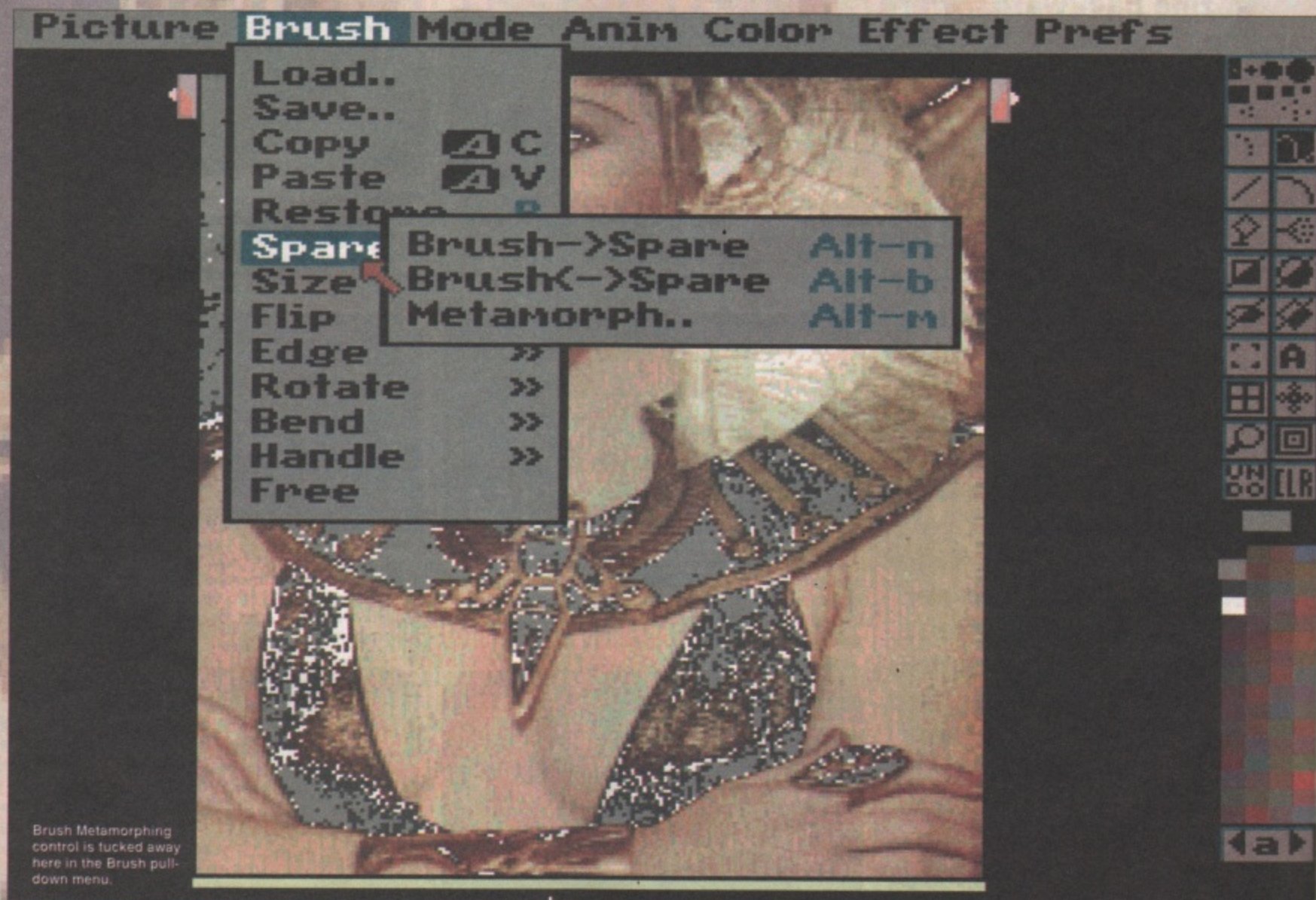


172

Get a cheap second Amiga, and experience the luxury of eight top-quality sample channels! It's a lot cheaper than you think. The man they call Hammond shows you how it's done in part 3 of the *OctaMED 5* tutorial, delicately spiced this month with mesquite and paprika.

Pete Lee's DPaint AGA TUTORIAL

Peter Lee comes up with some neat tricks to get around any memory problems you may encounter whilst trying to animate in DPaint AGA.



PART

3

The average A1200 comes with a whopping 2Mb of RAM. Well, it's large when compared with the old standard Amiga configuration of 512K. But as soon as you try and animate in DPaint AGA, you wonder where it's all disappeared to!

Running DPaint from the Workbench in 256 colour low res mode, you'll be lucky if your frame count hits double figures. And that's in compressed storage mode. Select expanded storage and you're likely to get groans before you hit nine frames. Clearly this is not good news if your animation plans border on the epic.

You should really shy away from such a memory pig as 256 colour mode for general animation work unless circumstances give you no other option. However, your hands may be tied, as full

colour digitised images tend to be converted to 256 colours to retain some degree of integrity and using less degrades the image unacceptably.

But there are some neat tricks you can do to get around the memory problem with 256 colours, even if it is only in 10 frames or so. First of all, this mode scores when it comes to special effects – morphing, for example. Having a faster 68020 processor on board, the A1200 can calculate at a faster rate than the former entry-level Amigas (A500, 600 – and even my beefy A2000); but even so, changing one image to another really eats up those CPU cycles.

LESS IS MORE

What exactly can you do with all those AGA colours, and so few frames? Well, here are two hints to bear in mind: Firstly, when DPaint stores compressed animations, it just stores the changes between frames. If you have multiple

objects whizzing around the place, the storage overhead will be high. But if you have one main image and smaller animated portions, you will get a longer animation.

Secondly, lengthy Anim brushes also eat into memory and restrict the number of actual animation frames you can create. Watch this, as you may have specified a reasonable number of frames only to find that DPaint won't save changes in them after a certain memory watershed is reached.

BLIND PANIC

As I was creating the effect for the series on the opposite page I found myself in a tight corner. I didn't have enough memory to continue adding to the animation frames. And I'd only created eight frames to start with. But I eventually found a way around the problem, which may save your bacon one day, so read on and follow the guide overleaf.

This example uses 256 colours in low-res mode. It uses *DPaint's* Morphing feature in a strange but useful way. I morphed a digitised image of Claudette Colbert (a old movie star if you need to ask...) in such a way that it gave the impression of rolling down the screen – very much like a roller blind. Here's a step-by step guide on brush morphing using Claudette as an example:

- 1 Cut out your starting brush. In this case it was the whole digitised image of Claudette.
- 2 From the Brush pull-down menu select the Spare/Brush>Spare command. This stores the brush in memory.
- 3 You would normally select another brush now, for the transition effect. But instead, cut out a totally blank brush from the background (ie the brush contains no colours other than the background), you can force *DPaint* to create the special unrolling effect we're after.
- 4 From the Brush/Spare menu, select Metamorph. You will then have to tell *DPaint* how many cells (or mini-frames) you want your stored brush and current brush to change over. We're working on an eight frame sequence, so enter the figure 7. This is because our first frame will be the original image which we used for our initial brush.
- 5 The program will create a new Anim brush for you, drawing it on screen as it progresses (quite slowly sometimes, but have patience). When it's completed, your Anim brush will be available to paint with. And don't worry, because your original screen will still be intact.
- 6 Create seven blank animation frames by pulling down the Anim/Frames/set # menu, and enter 7 as the number of frames.

Pressing key 7 cycles through the cells in the Anim brush, so you can ensure you're placing the first Anim brush image in the correct frame. So, starting at Frame 1, with Anim brush cell 1, I started to manually paint down the cells. *DPaint AGA* advances the Anim brush a cell each time you paint a cell on screen. After each cell painting, press key 2 to advance to the next animation frame.

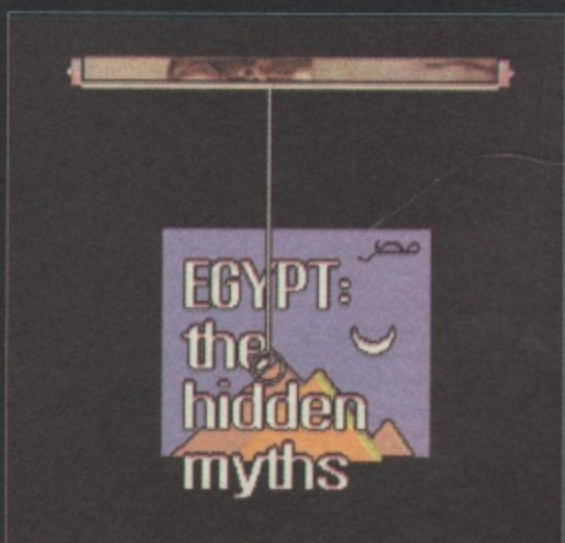
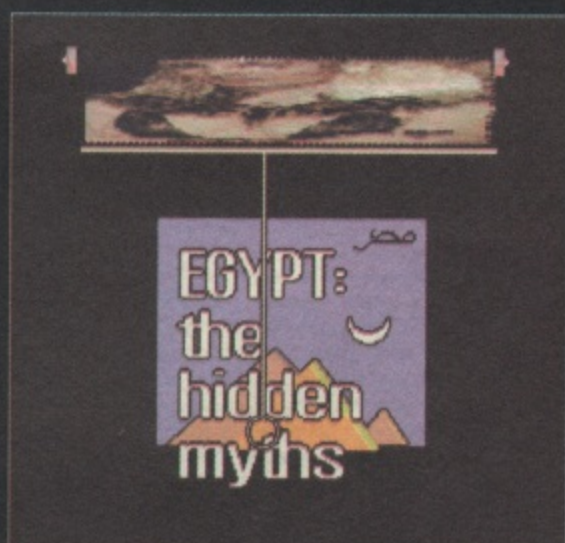
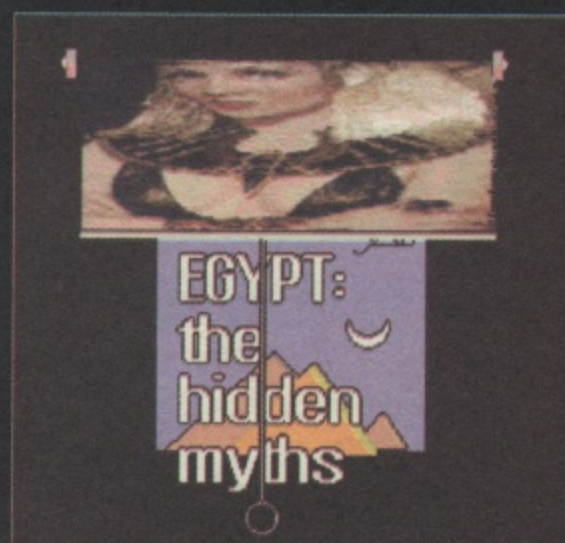
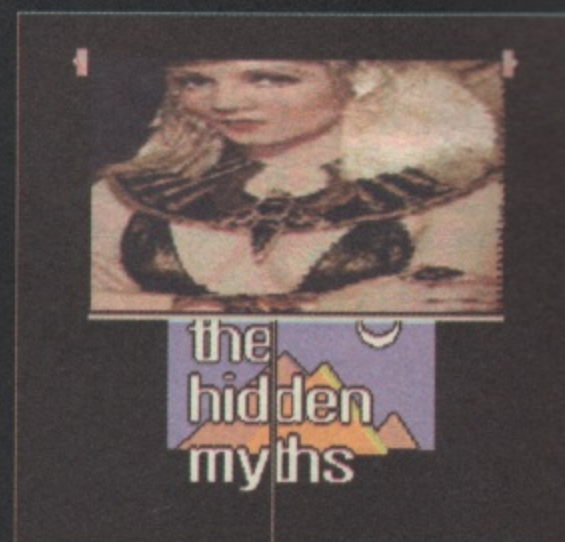
All hell broke loose when I got to frame six; I hit the insufficient memory problem, which prevented me from completing the job. *DPaint* refused to save changes to the frame, which would have meant abandoning the sequence when it was unfinished.

But there's a sneaky way to overcome this challenge: I pasted down the remaining three Anim brush images on the same blank frame, and from the Anim/Anim brush menu I then chose the Free option, to remove the Anim brush from memory, and so free up more room for the animation. I then had to cut and paste the three salvaged images into their respective frames to complete the animation, which was now possible because of the RAM freed up by releasing the Anim brush.

I added the text and blind fittings as the last job. The Amiga still had enough memory free to let me make a stencil and add the text behind my roller-blind without painting over it. (Make every colour, except black, part of the protected stencil). I added the ring-pull manually as a finishing touch. And when the animation is played back, the blind rolls up to reveal the text. This effect will work with any mode or number of colours and the clever thing is that *DPaint's* metamorphing does 80% of the work! »

NEXT MONTH

In the final part of this mini-series, Peter takes you through a project guaranteed to show you how to get the best effects from your copy of *DPaint AGA*, plus a look at what's possible in the advanced HAM modes.

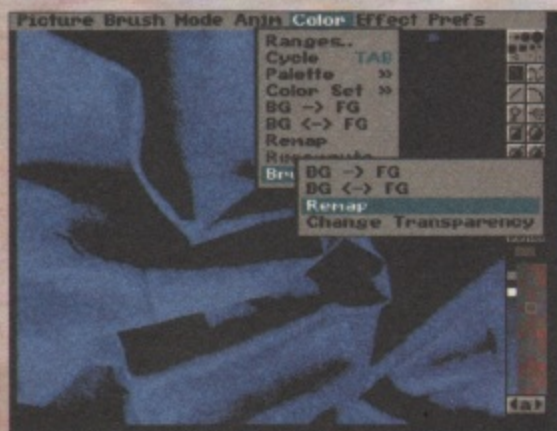


HANDS ON TUTORIAL

TUTORIAL THREE

In this month's tutorial, Peter Lee examines the power of AGA morphing and looks at image superimposition and full screen breakdown.

When you're morphing with *DPaint AGA*, you can use 256 colour images or simple line art – it all depends on your needs. This tutorial looks at both methods.



If your brush isn't using the same palette as the main picture, force it to so with the colour/brush/remap option.

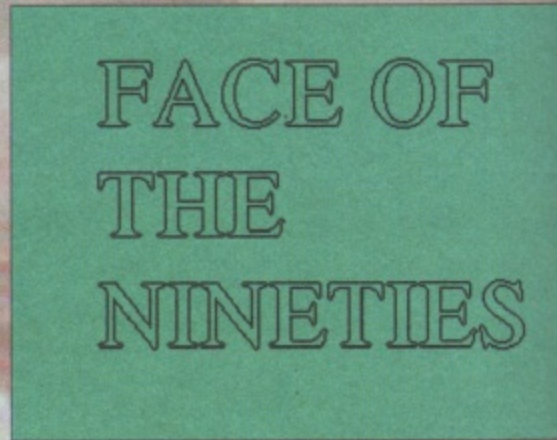
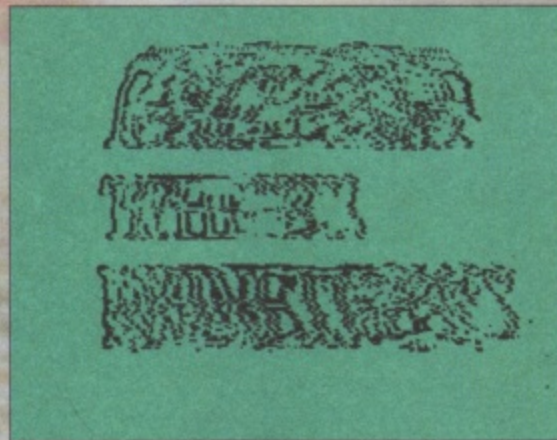
FULL FEATURES

One of the great features of *DPaint AGA* is the ability to morph full screens – memory allowing, of course. With this in mind it would be impossible to morph one 256 colour image into another over a dozen frames unless you had some RAM expansion.

But provided you confine yourself within the limits of your system, the basic 2Mb A1200 can do wonderful full-screen changes.

The morphing technique used by *DPaint* programmers is such that it actually works better the fewer colours you use, which makes it especially good for line art transitions.

The small full-screen demo below shows a really clever morph from an image to text. All of the lines which make up the picture can be seen to be moved into the correct position to spell out the text. I don't think a dedicated morphing package could have done better under the circumstances (ie leaving the software to work everything out for itself).



A BUSH IN THE HAND..

This is an example of metamorphing with two brushes. It also pulls in *DPaint's* anti-alias function as well as the Trails feature in the automated Move requester.

The two images I chose, both 256 colour jobs, were of an American Eagle and American ex-President. George Bush is the one with his mouth open. Anyhow, the first job was to ensure both images shared the same palette. To do this I cut out the eagle, from its larger picture, then loaded in Mr Bush. The eagle turned a funny colour, so I asked *DPaint* to try and compensate for this – to use what colours were available in the Bush picture to mimic the bird's true colours. To do this, pull down the Colour/brush menu and select Remap.

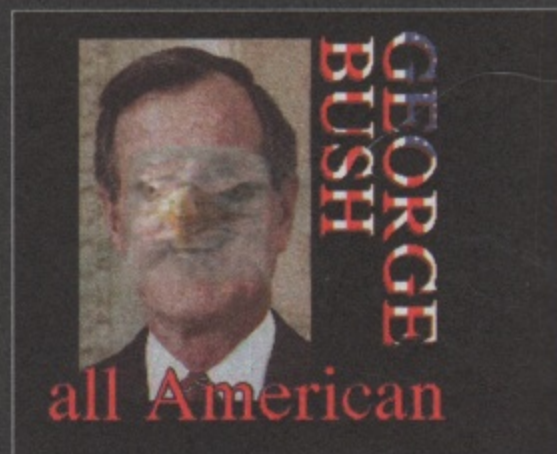
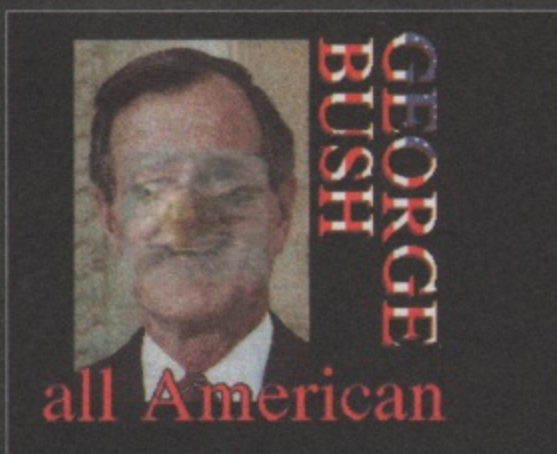
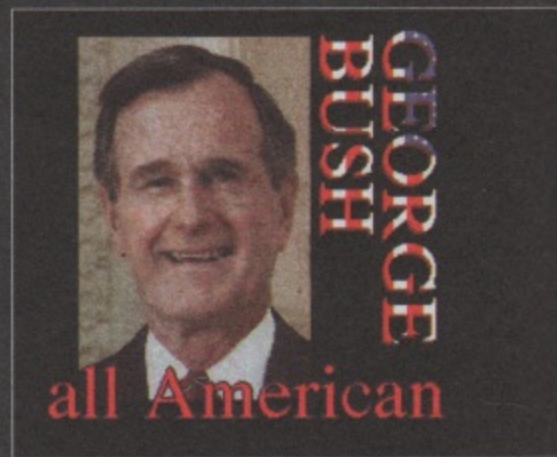
Next, I created a 10-frame animation consisting solely of the Bush picture. This is easy – simply pull down the Anim/frames/set # menu and enter the number of frames you want. Your starting picture is copied to all the newly created frames.

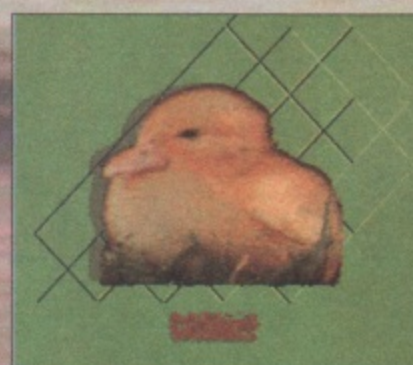
I transferred the eagle into memory using the technique outlined in step two earlier, then cut out a similar sized portion of George's face, and asked *DPaint* to metamorph the two.

Once the Anim brush was created (beautifully, I have to add) (*big head - ED*), I activated Anti Alias/High from the Effects menu, and called up *DPaint's* move requester. The eyes of the bird were too low down in the final cell of the Anim brush, so I compensated for this by entering 15 in the Y movement counter (this would move the Anim brush up slightly as it progressed, to get the eyes better placed).

All that remained was to click on Trails from the Move requester, so that the Anim brush would be pasted over itself as it was drawn on each of the animation frames. This gives an evolving image effect, and is more pleasing when used with the anti-alias control active.

The finished animation is really neat – not as good as dedicated morphing packages, I have to say – but a marvel of *DPaint* technology nonetheless.





CHAIN OF EVENTS

Using the cliché metamorph which turns a bird into an egg (with at least the novelty that this time that it's a duck egg...) let's use a simple example to show how morphs can be chained.

Changing the bird and egg should be straightforward after our earlier examples, so let's concentrate on the text.

The caption, which morphs along with the 9-frame animation, spells out 'WHICH CAME FIRST?' It's a good idea to write your text on DPaint's spare screen, that way the colour palettes will be the same.

To achieve the multiple morph, I cut out the first word, copied it to Spare, then cut out the second word, and asked for a metamorph over three cells.

I pasted these down on to the first three frames of the animation, then cut out the second word again, copied this to Spare, then clipped the last word out and metamorphed the brushes.

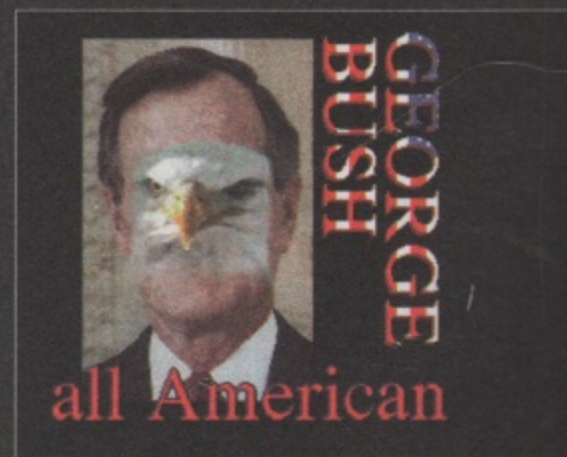
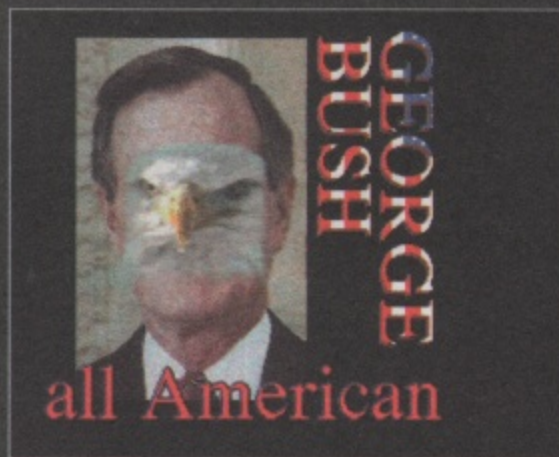
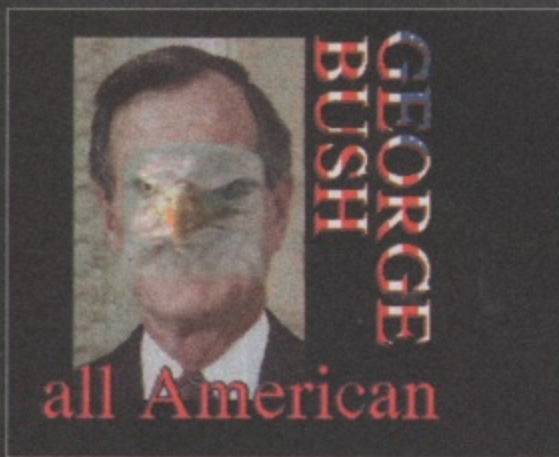
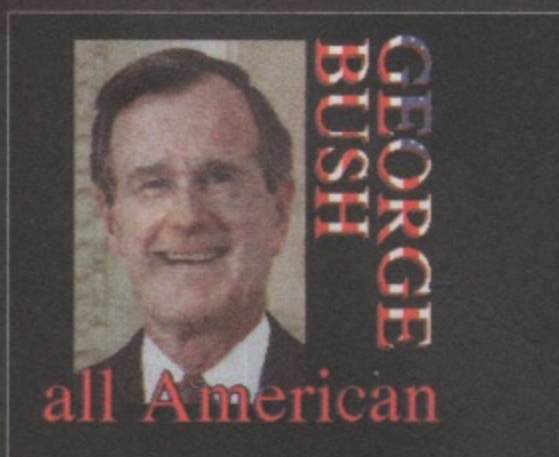
Pasting this sequence down after the first set of 4 cells creates a chained animation, which is completed when the last word and first word are treated in exactly the same way and painted on the image.

When played back 'WHICH' morphs to 'CAME', and 'CAME' morphs to 'FIRST?' And then



'FIRST?' morphs to 'WHICH' ... and so on as the animation loops.

Using this technique you can morph a series of images together in a chain — provided you have the memory of course. How about chaining a picture of your dad, mum, you and your brother or sister together for an animated family tree?



VIDEO TITLING

With nothing more than an Amiga, a video recorder and our coverdisk demo of *Scala HVT*, you can enter the desktop video scene with a bang. Jason Holborn is the man with the matches...

It's a common misconception that in order to get started in desktop video, you need a bank account containing more digits than your dear old Auntie Ethel's phone number in Australia. Sure, if you want to create the sort of wonderful video effects that would have Steven Spielberg goggle-eyed, you're going to need a little bit more than just a bog-standard A500 – video editing systems, chromakeys, time base correctors, 24-bit colour cards, broadcast quality video decks are just some of the things you would need.

But whilst all this wondrous video wizardry may well allow you to create the sort of results that wouldn't look out of place on the screen of a *Quantel Paintbox* (an expensive broadcast quality painting system), the problem is they all cost serious money – money that most of us just don't have these days (especially in the wake of Christmas and the January Sales!).

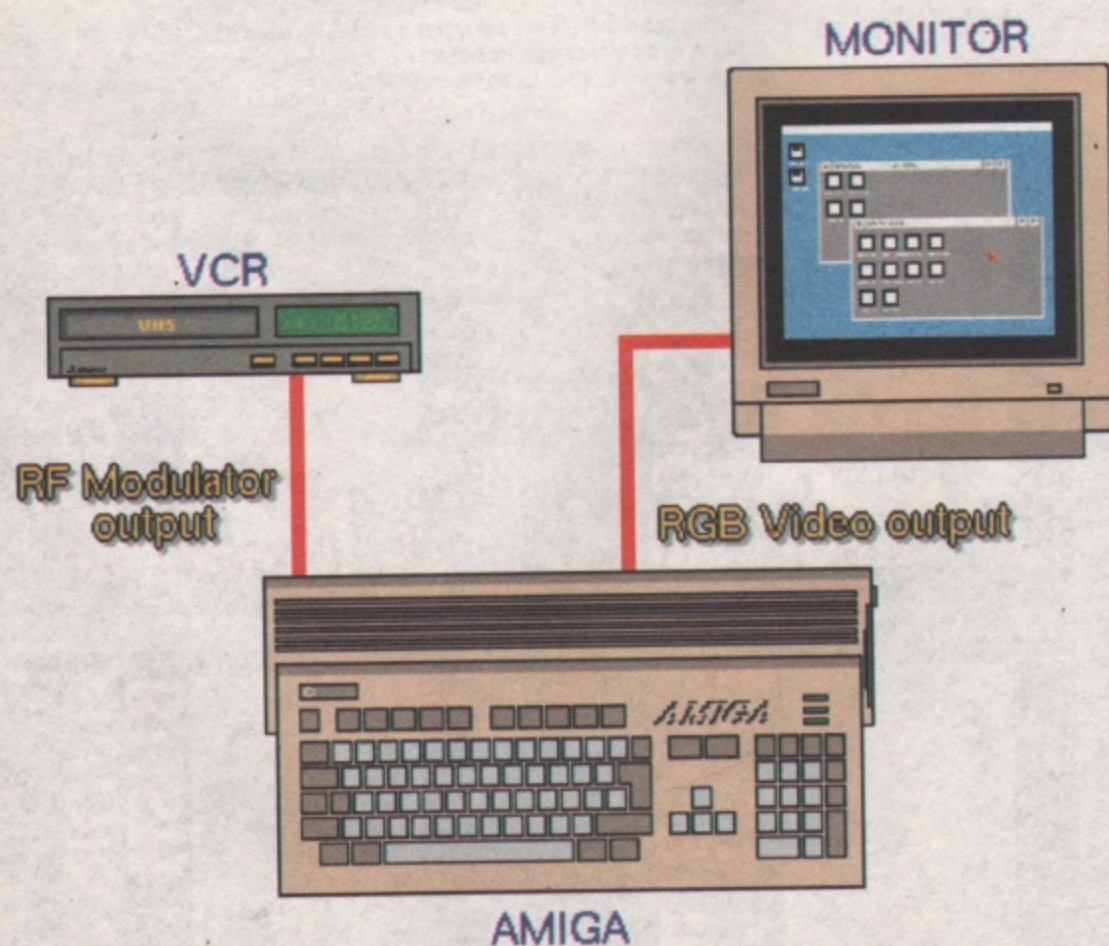
Rest assured, however, that you don't need to re-mortgage your house to get started in desktop video. For the most basic of video systems all you need is an Amiga (this bit is very important), a video recorder, a video titling program and some good ideas. What's more, you may be surprised to learn that at least one of these items you already own – if you bought the February issue of *CU AMIGA*. On it you will have found a demonstration copy of the brilliant *Scala HVT* (Home Video Titler) on our coverdisk. Providing you've got the other three components, your home video setup is virtually complete.

For those of you that haven't yet loaded up the demo of *Scala HVT*, it's a powerful video titling and presentation program based on the excellent *Scala MM300* multimedia system we reviewed in our last issue. With *Scala HVT* you can create fantastic video titles and other static displays in a fraction of

the time that it would take even the most experienced *DPaint* dauber to knock up the same results in a paint program. What's more, you don't even need to know a great deal about video titling to get to grips with *Scala HVT* – just a basic idea of what looks good is all that is needed.

INTRODUCING SCALA

Now that you have a video recorder safely attached to the back of your Amiga, we're ready to get stuck into *Scala HVT*. The first step is to load up the *Scala* program, so double click on the *Scala* icon and it should load up on to the memory of your machine. What follows is the first of a series of tutorials that will take you steadily through the *Scala* menu system. Hopefully, by the time you've read through them all, you should be a fairly proficient *Scala* user. Without further ado then, let's get stuck in.



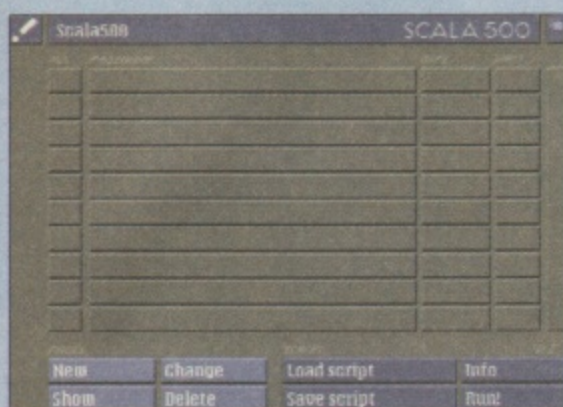
GET CONNECTED!

Before we dive in with the first of our *Scala HVT* tutorials, let's take a look at how to get your system set up. If you already have a genlock and a couple of video decks, ignore the following – for the rest of us, however, you'll find the following setup more than adequate for basic video titling.

Without an expensive gadget like a genlock you won't be able to overlay your titles onto video tape, but some very effective results are possible nonetheless. All you need to do is to feed the composite output from the rear of your Amiga into the Video In socket on the back of your VCR, switch your VCR to External In (this is sometimes called either AUX In or Camera In on some makes of VCR) and your VCR should directly accept the composite output from your Amiga. Older Amigas (pre-A1200, that is) offer only a monochrome composite output so you may want to use the RF modulator output instead. However, if your VCR has a SCART input, you can connect it directly to the RGB output of your Amiga for a very sharp picture. Set the VCR to AUX in this case.

Using the RF output makes the process of getting your VCR to accept the signals from your Amiga somewhat more involved. This is because the RF signal is output at a lower frequency which keeps it completely separate from normal TV signals, thus you'll need to tune in one of the spare channels on your VCR so that it displays the RF signal.

This may not be the most powerful video setup possible, but it's adequate for simple video.

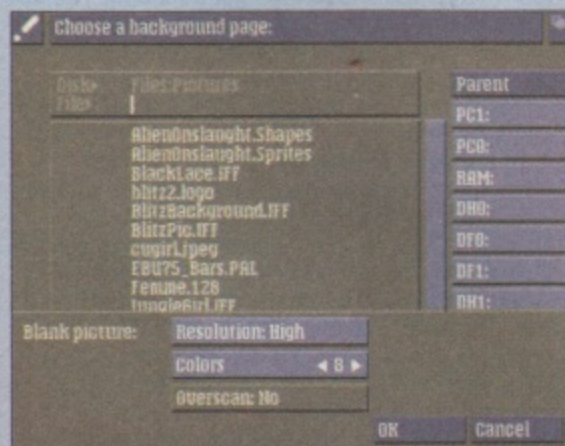


Above: Scala's main menu which pops up once you have loaded the disk.

Once *Scala* has been loaded, you should see a display consisting of ten rows of four columns of gadgets. This is the *Scala HVT* main menu and each row of gadgets represents a single *Scala* event. Each column of gadgets controls a particular aspect of the operation of the presentation – the first (labelled 'No.') simply displays the number of each page, Page Name displays the name of each page, Wipe defines which wipe pattern each screen is to be displayed in (more on these in a later issue!) and the Pause gadget defines how long each page is to be displayed for. Don't worry too much about these gadgets for the meantime as their use will become obvious later.

In more advanced versions of *Scala*, a single event can consist of anything from a music module, a sound sample or even an external control event. In *Scala HVT* however, only one type of event is supported – pages. Each page contains a screen full of video titles, and each page is played back in the order that they are displayed within the menu. As you will see later it is also possible to change the order of pages.

When *Scala* is first loaded, the main menu display should be empty. At this point you could load a *Scala* presentation from disk simply by selecting the Load Script gadget at the bottom of the screen. For the sake of this tutorial, however, we're going to create our own *Scala* presentation. Before we can go any further, however, we need to start by creating our first page event. Click on the New gadget at the bottom of the screen and a file requester will appear prompting you to choose a background page. *Scala HVT* allows you to drop any pre-AGA or non-HAM image into a page as a background. We won't worry too much about this too much for the moment though, so simply click on the OK gadget and the file requester should be skipped.



Scala supports all pre-AGA screen modes except HAM mode.

If you clicked on the OK gadget without selecting a background image, a requester should appear in the bottom third of the *Scala* screen which prompts you to select the screen mode of a new blank page. By default, this should be set to

eight colour high resolution with no overscanning. You can of course change this to suit your own needs – *Scala* fully supports all pre-AGA screen modes with the exception of HAM mode (HAM mode is rather useless for video work). If you upgrade to a newer version of *Scala*, you'll get full AGA support. For the sake of this tutorial, the default screen settings are fine, so simply click on the OK gadget.



In *Scala*'s page editor you can create all the various pages of your presentation.

As if by magic, a completely new screen should appear consisting of a very tasteful blue screen in the top two thirds of the display and a small toolbox consisting of lots of gadgets in the bottom third of the display. This is the *Scala* Page Editor and it's from within this part of the program that you create all the pages that make up a *Scala* presentation. You should see at the top left hand corner of the screen an orange cursor – if you type something on the Amiga's keyboard, you should see the text appear on the screen at the current cursor position.

Let's start then by entering the first line of titles. What you type is entirely up to you, but if you want to follow this tutorial to the letter, enter SCALA HVT TITLING and press the RETURN key. When you press the Return key, the cursor should drop down to the next line and return to the left hand side of the screen. If you've ever used a word processor, then this method of entering text will be all too familiar – just like a word processor, you can edit your text simply by moving the cursor back up to the line you've just typed using the cursor keys on your Amiga's keyboard. For a more direct approach, you can also simply move the mouse pointer over the text that you'd like to edit and then click the left mouse button. Once the cursor has been repositioned, you can then insert and delete characters in exactly the same way as you would in a word processor.

Now that we've entered some titles, let's make them look a bit more interesting. The first thing



Editing text is simple – either by moving the cursor using the cursor keys or the mouse.

we need to do is to centralise them on the screen. If the cursor isn't already over the titles, move it back up so that it sits on the same line as the titles and then click on the Centralise Text gadget (it's in the middle of the three gadgets immediately below Shadow). If all went well, the titles should then shift over to the centre of the screen. You can also move your titles to any vertical screen position by clicking on the Move gadget. When you click on this gadget, the *Scala* toolbox should disappear revealing the full page, complete with your line of titles.

If you then move the mouse pointer over your titles and click and hold the left mouse button, you can move your titles up and down the screen. Note how the text remains horizontally fixed to the centre of the screen – if you turned Centralise Text off, however, *Scala* will allow you to reposition your titles anywhere on screen.

For now, however, move your titles down to the centre of the screen and then press the right mouse button to return to the normal editing mode.

We won't do anything else to this particular page



If you want to see how your *Scala* presentation is looking so far, just click on Run.

for the meantime, so click on the OK gadget and a requester should pop up on to the screen asking you to name the page you've just created. By default, *Scala* uses the first line of titles as the page name. This can sometimes make your presentations a little vague, so you may want to delete the name that *Scala* automatically assigns it and give it one of your own.

Finally, click on the OK gadget and you'll return to the *Scala* main menu. If you look at the top of the screen, you should notice that the first row of gadgets will be highlighted with the Page Name gadget containing the title of the page that you've just created. This is *Scala*'s way of telling you that your first page is safely stored away in its memory.

That's about it for this month but if you wish to see your *Scala* presentation so far, click on the Run gadget. By now you should have grasped the basics of using *Scala HVT* but there are many more wondrous features of this program still to be covered in the next few issues. **CU**

NEXT MONTH

I'll be showing you how to select different fonts, how to apply styles to your titles and we may even find time to take a quick peek at *Scala*'s impressive range of wipes. Stay tuned!

THE AMIGADOS PROBLEM SOLVER

Resplendent in his promotional Guinness t-shirt, John Kennedy skims the froth off a few pint-sized Workbench problems and has some good ideas for bad icons.

This is the first of a series of tutorials where we aim to look at some of the more common problems with AmigaDOS. Hopefully, after reading through this lot, you'll understand what is behind all those error messages which crop up with annoying regularity.

BOOTING AND ASSIGNS

When you create an assign (a program telling the computer to look somewhere other than the expected place for a disk or volume), you are defining a new Amiga device, like a disk drive or a printer. As this device doesn't actually exist you obviously can't just build a real disk drive by magic, simply by typing 'it's called a Logical Device, as opposed to a Physical Device'.

However, you can use an assign to save yourself a lot of typing at the shell. For example, imagine that you need to access a file that's buried in a drawer, which, in turn, is also in a drawer. The overall path to the file could be something like:

```
df0:graphics/pictures/my-cat
```

To save typing all the above every time you need to look at your cat, make the assign:

```
assign Fluffy: df0:graphics/pictures/
```

You have now created the logical device Fluffy. You can check that the assign is there by entering Assign at a shell by itself – a list of all the current assigns will appear and Fluffy: should be in there somewhere. Now that I have created Fluffy: accessing my-cat is a lot easier. The following will make a copy of the file in the Ram disk.

```
copy fluffy:my-cat to ram:
```

If there is a problem with the assign statements, they will disappear as soon as the power to the computer is removed. To ensure they are always present, you will have to add them to your start-up sequence. On Workbench 2, use the file S:user-startup to store all your important assigns. The user-startup file is automatically invoked by the real startup-sequence.

S: is an assign, but it's rather a special one which the Amiga operating system has created for itself. Along with LIBS:, DEVS:, C: and a few others, where S: actually points to depends on how the computer was started up.

When you boot your computer from a floppy disk, say the standard Workbench disk, these assigns all point to the relevant directories on the floppy disk. In effect, they are set like this:

```
assign s: df0:s/
assign c: df0:c/
assign devs: df0:devs/
```

```
assign libs: df0:libs/
```

If you have a hard drive, the computer will usually boot from it. When this happens, the assigns are made to the directories on the hard disk, like this:

```
assign s: hd0:s/
assign c: hd0:c/
assign devs: hd0:devs/
assign libs: hd0:libs/
```

If hd0: is the bootable partition on the hard disk. This may be different on your hardware and called dh0: or something similar.

To add assigns to the user-startup, open a shell and enter:

```
ed s:user-startup
```

Now you can enter some definitions, for example:

```
assign graphics: hd0:art/pictures/
assign sound: hd0:music/samples/
```

When you finished, press ESC and then X to save your new user-startup.

EXPLODING LIBRARIES

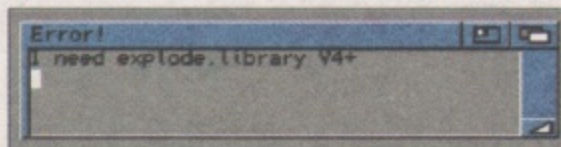
The way in which the assign definitions can vary depending on boot disk sometimes leads to a few problems. Take the classic 'explode.library not found' error message which usually occurs when a coverdisk program such as *VirusChecker* is run.

If the disk with the virus checker is used to boot the computer, everything will work fine. However, once the program is copied to another floppy or onto a hard disk, up pops the error.

What's going on? Well, the *VirusChecker* program requires a special software library to run, and it looks in the LIBS: directory to find it. As the floppy disk booted the computer, LIBS: is the libs directory on the floppy disk which will contain the library.

However, if the Amiga is booted from the hard disk and the virus checker is run, it may fail. It will still look in LIBS: for the library, but the LIBS: won't be referring to the floppy, it will be looking on the hard disk. Chances are that the correct library isn't on the hard disk (unless you copied it there) and so you can get an instant error message.

To stop this from happening, all you need to do is make sure that the library is in your hard drive libs directory. Boot from the hard drive, insert a



How many times have you seen this? Judging by the number of letters to Q&A on the subject, nearly everyone seems to be plagued by a similar message several times a day.

coverdisk which has the virus checker and enter the following at a shell prompt:

```
copy df0:libs/explode.library to libs:
```

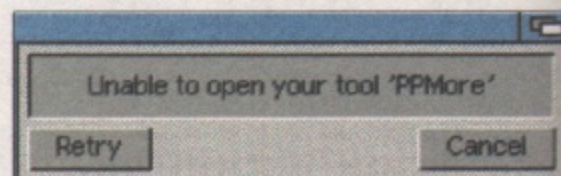
At last your exploding library problem will be solved, as the required library becomes a permanent part of your Amiga system.

TEXT AND DOC FILES

Have you ever clicked on a *ReadMe* icon, only to find that instead of text, you get an error message? I have and it is extremely irritating.

When a Doc file gets it right, double clicking should automatically load a text display program (such as *More*) and then have itself loaded and displayed. What happens is hidden from sight – all you know is that you clicked on a text file, and it appears on the screen in front of you.

However, as you would expect, nothing is so simple. The text program cannot appear on-screen by itself, it must have a viewing program. You can check the name of the viewing program which a particular document needs by using the info command from the Workbench. Highlight the icon with a single click, and then use information from the



Another annoying error message; you click on an icon called *ReadMe* and all you get is abuse from the operating system.

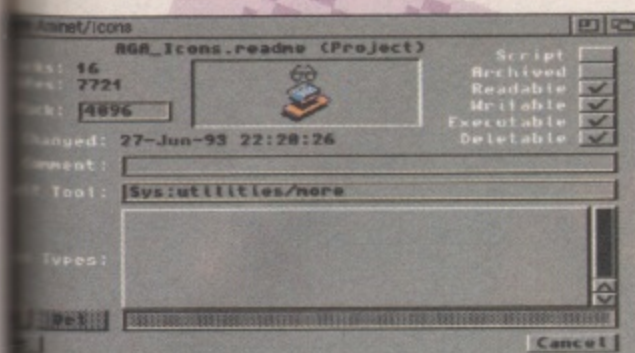
Icon menu. You should then get a window. The text in the default tool box is the important part of this window. This is the name of the program which will be used to display the text, and if you don't have it – the text won't be displayed and you'll get an error message instead.

If the text is a raw, plain, ordinary text file (sometimes called an ASCII text file because all the letters and numbers conform to the American Standard Code for Information Interchange character set) then the text editor *More* will do fine. Every Amiga comes with *More*, usually lurking (without an icon of its own) in the Utilities drawer. The Utilities drawer is one of those drawers which the Amiga will search through for commands automatically, and so no path is needed.

Assuming you have a text file called *Help.doc* in the RAM: disk, to read it all you need do is open a shell and enter:

```
more ram:help.doc
```

Sometimes when an author puts a document in the public domain he or she forgets to change the



Using the information option from the Workbench pull-down menu, you can check on the name of the viewer (if any) the document file hopes to use. This can be changed if necessary, type in the new name and hit save.

name in the icon to *More*, and keeps it pointing to some obscure text reader only themselves and a Scandinavian hacker know about. If so, just change the name in the default tool box to *More*, select save and try again.

Unfortunately, nine times out of ten, when a document icon fails it's not because it can't find *More*. Instead, it is more likely that the text file has been compressed with a program such as *PowerPacker* and is no longer raw Ascii. Displaying a crunched file with *More* is not going to bring much joy either: a dedicated crunched file-viewer is needed.

The standard decompressor and viewer is called *PPMore*, and if you don't already have *PPMore* on your hard disk you have probably seen the error message 'Can't find tool *PPMore*' more than once. The solution isn't very difficult – simply copy the *PPMore* program to your hard disk. Find a coverdisk with *PPMore* (most of them have it, although they may hide it in the C directory) and copy it across. Rather than fill up your own C: directory, put it in Utilities with *More*, as follows:

copy df0:c/PPMore to hd0:utilities/

Once you have sorted a few icons out, you'll soon recognise the tell-tale signs and what to expect. If you have *More* and *PPMore* on your boot disk, you should be able to read just about anything.

PRETTY ICONS

I must admit to hating the tedious orange and blue icons of Workbench 1.3 – they look so boring. I can't understand why more folk don't take advantage of the icon editor and backdrop preference to make more interesting displays.

I suppose, unless you have a hard drive and perhaps a little more memory than standard all the new icon data can eat into your precious resources. However, if you have an A1200 with a hard drive you can finally ditch those boring colours.

Every icon on the Amiga can be altered, and that includes the floppy, hard and ram disk icons. Editing the icon for say, the preferences printer control is no problem: load it into the icon editor, draw all over it and save it back out.

Altering the icon for the hard and floppy drives isn't really a problem either, as each drive has a file called disk.info in the root directory. Enter dir hd0: (or dh0:) and amongst all the .info files and drawers you'll see it.

The only thing that could possibly go wrong when experimenting with icons is a mix-up over their type. An icon can be a project (like a text file), a trashcan, a disk (hard, floppy or ram) or a tool (like a word processor) and if you save a project icon out as disk.info then funny things might happen. This is why it's best to load the original icon into the editor and change that, rather than start from scratch.

IT'S MAGIC!

Although I would love to pretend otherwise, I'm not a terribly artistic person and I have to admit that the icons I use on my Workbench are all taken from some public domain and shareware disks. The most important addition to my set-up was from a program called *Magic Workbench*, which adds incredibly snazzy new drawers and default Workbench icons. 17 Bit Software sell this disk at the moment and it is well worth having.

The Magic WB system includes an excellent font called XEN which manages to be readable and yet very compact. I use it in every program I can to fit more text on-screen, as it looks so much better than Topaz.

I have picked up other icons from various disks, and re-coloured them to fit into my standard 16-colour palette. The key to a good icon is small size (I can't stand huge, cluttering icons) and clarity: the icon must look like something useful or you'll never remember what it's for.

If you have a multiscan monitor and a AGA machine, you're lucky in that you can display a flicker-free Workbench of about 640 by 512 or bigger, which makes for an excellent working environment. Add a digitised image as a backdrop and you'll have a Workbench that you can really be proud of! **CU**



You too can have a snazzy Workbench like mine.

NEXT MONTH

More AmigaDOS tricks and tips, including creating the best possible Workbench layout, playing with multiview, archiving and compressing files.



More electronic gossip from the anything-but-dumb terminal of cyberpunk John Armitage.

Viruses – you can love 'em or loath 'em, but you can't ignore them. In fact, if you love 'em you must be completely mad as they mean nothing but trouble.

A virus is a small program with two objectives: one, to duplicate itself as often as possible, and two, to perform a very nasty side-effect. The side-effects of a virus can be irritating (your mouse pointer turns into a rude shape), severe (unpredictable crashes)

WIRED WORLD

or catastrophic (destruction of all files on a hard drive or damage to a commercial game).

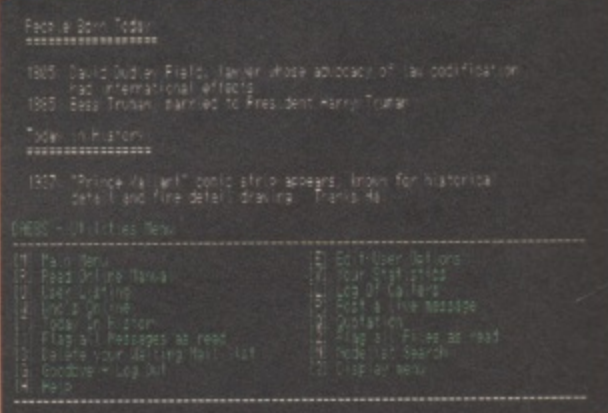
The best way to protect yourself is to keep a good piece of virus-checking software close at hand – preferably running all the time in the Workbench background. Unfortunately, keeping up-to-date with the latest killers has always been a hit or miss affair, depending on magazine coverdisks or Public Domain libraries. Now, however, Comms can come to the rescue.

You may have read about Safe Hex International in CU AMIGA before – they are a group of programmers and interested parties dedicated to eradicating the threat of Amiga virus programs. The DABBS bulletin board in Leeds has become the official system of Safe Hex International, which means anyone with a modem can log in and get the very latest software as soon as it is released.

LOG IN

DABBS runs 7 days a week, 24 hours a day and is a board dedicated to the Amiga. Logging on is easy – answer a few questions, pick a password and you are immediately granted access to most areas. Any modem will do, from a rather slow (but very cheap) 2400 baud to a top of the range rocket powered 16.8K HST.

Once on-line, pressing X at the menu will bring you to the special SHI BBS, from where you can download the latest anti-virus software. This



DABBS keeps you well informed with useful information.

includes various killers (only up-to-date versions are provided) and plenty of articles and help files.

The rest of the board is open for you to explore as well, which means you can get to play all sorts of on-line games, chat with fellow users and download the latest PD. DABBS is also part of the FidoNet system, which means if you live in the Leeds area you should consider becoming a Point to save yourself a lot of time and money. **CU**

NEXT MONTH

More international networking. Plus, you get the chance to E-mail comments to CU AMIGA.

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BACK TO BASIC WITH BLITZ BASIC 2

PART

5

If you want to get the low-down on what's hot and what's not in the world of *Blitz Basic 2*, then Jason Holborn is the man with the hottest news, the best tips and the worst possible hair style...



Welcome back to the liveliest and most happening *Blitz Basic* column ever to grace the pages of an Amiga magazine. We started looking at shapes last month, *Blitz Basic's* answer to AMOS' powerful Bobs (blitter objects). This month, we're ready to take the plunge into some coding.

As you may remember from last month's issue, *Blitz Basic* offers not one but three different methods of blitting shapes onto the screen: Blit, Qblit and Bblit. Each has its own individual strengths and weaknesses which we'll discuss in brief before moving on.

BLIT

This is *Blitz's* simplest blitting mode. Although it is very fast, it does not keep track of any shapes that are blitted onto the screen, so old shapes have to be manually removed. Blit mode doesn't keep track of the background bitmap either, so the area of the bitmap which a shape is drawn onto will be permanently destroyed.

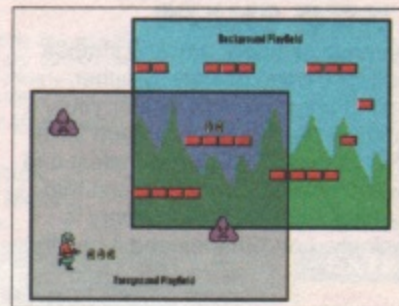
QBLIT

Short for Queued Blit mode, Qblit keeps track of where shapes are drawn and will automatically

remove the old shape image when a shape is moved. Once again, however, the background bitmap is not restored when the shape is moved. This blitting mode is best used with a dual playfield display.

BBLIT

Buffered Blit mode offers all the benefits of Qblit mode but with the added advantage of automatic background restoration whenever a shape is moved to a new screen position. However, although it is the best option available, Bblit mode is also the slowest mode.



QBlit mode is best suited to games that use a dual playfield display. This is because the blitting commands do not restore the background graphics whenever a shape is moved.

EVEN MORE NEW BLITZ COMMANDS

It's been an exciting month in the world of *Blitz Basic* programming. Not only has the latest issue of Acid Software's newsletter, *BUM* (*Blitz User Magazine*), finally arrived but it has brought a brand new version of *Blitz Basic 2* along with it. This update – version 1.7 – should be of interest to anyone who likes to take advantage of *Blitz's* excellent support for Intuition, the Amiga's windowing environment, rather than the *Blitz* mode that we've been concentrating on over the past few months. Not only does *Blitz* version 1.7 offer a number of new display commands, but, most interesting of all, there's full support for both GadTools and the ASL requesters offered to Amiga programmers under Workbench 2.0 or above. Here's a quick run – through of the new ASL commands:

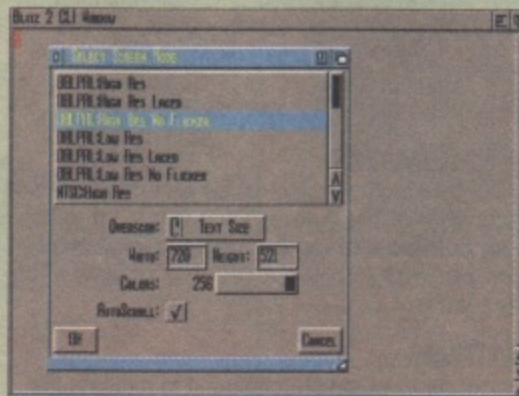
```
filename$ = ASLFileRequest$(Title$,
Path$, DefFile$[, Pat$][, X, Y, W, H])
```

Blitz's file requester is a lot better than the one offered by AMOS but it's still not as good as Commodore's which is built into the Amiga operating system. With the addition of the `ASLFileRequest()` command, however, your *Blitz* programs can take full advantage of this brilliant file requester. Not only does this give you a better file requester, but it'll also help to give your programs a more uniformed and professional look. It does have one disadvantage though – because it uses the ASL library, this command will not work when your program is run on any Amiga that doesn't have at least *Kickstart 2.0*.

The parameters that the command requires are pretty self explanatory: Title\$ holds the title string that will be printed along the top of the file requester (Select file to load, for example), Path\$ holds the default pathname, DefFile\$ holds the default filename, Pat\$ (which is optional) holds a selection pattern (#?.IFF, for example, will force the file requester to show only the files that end with .IFF) and the X, Y, W and H parameters allow you to control the position and size of the requester.

```
Font.fontinfo = ASLFontRequest(Flags)
```

Not surprisingly, the `ASLFontRequest()` command gives you full access to Commodore's capable font requester which not only automatically handles the complex font structures but even gives you the option of a preview. Which certainly beats asking the user to enter the name of the font, followed by the required point size and then hoping for the best!



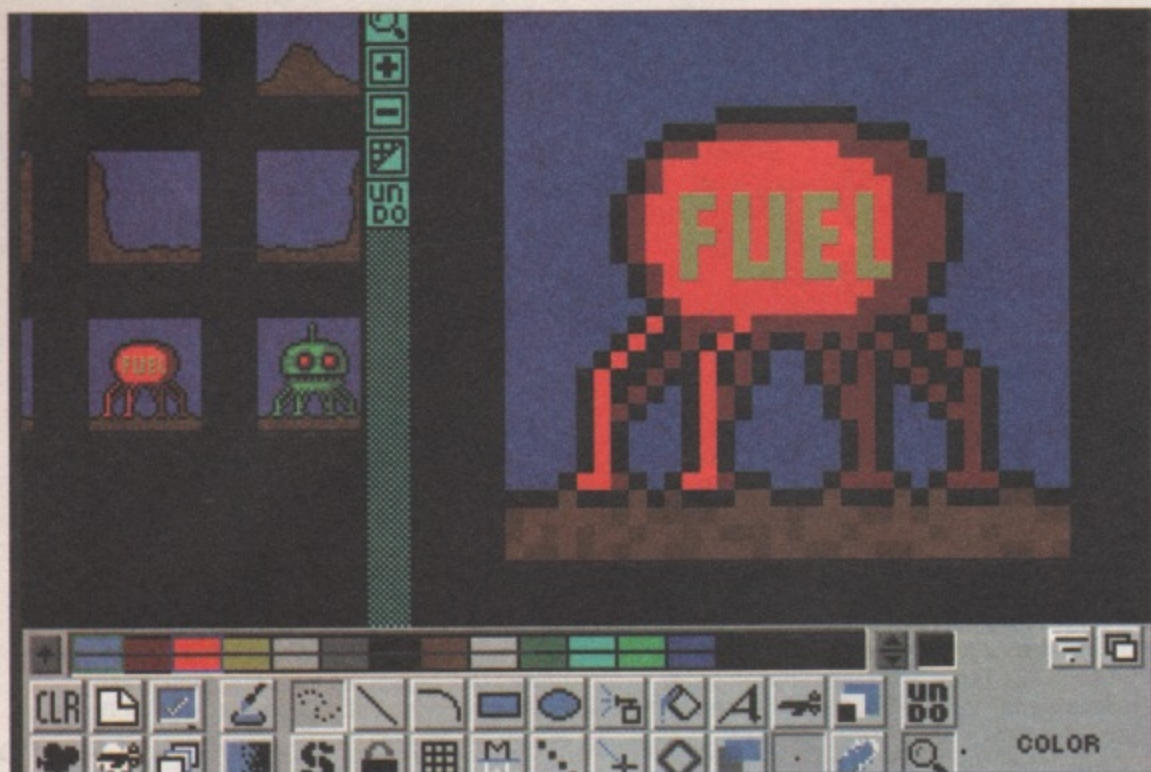
With *Blitz* version 1.7 you can add this wonderful Workbench 2.0 screen mode requester to your programs

The `Flags` parameter allows you to define what gadgets are made available to the user when the font requester is displayed, eg: the pen number, background colour, style etc. All of this information is passed to the command in the form of a bitpattern, with each bit controlling a particular attribute. Bit one controls the pen attribute, bit two for the background, bit four for the style, bit eight for the drawmode and bit 16 for the fixsize attribute. A value of three, for example, would tell the requester to turn on the pen and background colour control gadgets only (three = bit one + Bit two). Information on the selected font is returned in the form of a fontinfo structure.

```
*Sc.Screeninfo =
ASLScreenRequest(Flags)
```

With all those lovely new screen modes on offer, it's very hard to write an application that will look good on everyone's systems. Some people like their applications to run in PAL format, others in NTSC, while those lucky enough to own multisync monitors like to be able to take advantage of the AGA Scan doubling modes. With the addition of the `ASLScreenRequest()` command, however, you can add an option into your software that will allow the user to change your program's screen mode if they so wish. Calling this command will bring up the standard ASL Screen mode requester like the one you see when the *ScreenMode Preferences* program is run.

Just like the font requester command, this command expects to be fed a flags parameter in the form of a bit pattern too. Bit one turns on (or off) the the screen width gadget, bit two for the height gadget, bit four for the depth, bit eight for overscanning and, finally, bit 16 for scrolling.



» GETTING INTO SHAPE

Before you can even think about drawing shapes onto a *Blitz* screen, you need to start by either loading an existing shapes file from disk or you must manually grab all the shapes you need from a bitmap. Loading a shapes file is the simplest and most straightforward method. The command that you'll need to load a shapes file into memory is called, not surprisingly, `LoadShapes` and it has the following format.

```
LoadShapes SHAPE[,LASTSHAPE],FILENAME$
```

SHAPE

The Shape parameter allows you to specify an offset (a numbered slot into which the shape will be loaded) when loading a shapes file into memory when there are already existing shapes. For example, if you were to simply pass a value of zero, the first shape loaded from disk would be shape 0 and any further shapes loaded from the file would have a shape number that followed on from this first shape. By specifying a shape offset, however, you can load shapes into memory without wiping existing shapes.

Say, for example, you had ten shapes in memory already numbered from 0 to nine and you wanted to load a further set of shapes into memory. You would therefore pass a value of ten indicating that the first shape loaded from disk should be placed at position ten. Simple really.

LASTSHAPE

This optional parameter allows you to restrict the number of shapes that are loaded into memory from a shapes file. Say, for example, you had a shapes file containing 20 shapes but you only wanted to load the first five – all you'd have to do is to pass a value of five and only the first five shapes would be loaded.



Acid Software's *Blitz Basic 2* offers even the greenest of beginners the opportunity to create games of commercial quality.

FILENAME\$

Filename tells *Blitz Basic* the filename of your shapes file. Now that we've loaded our shapes into memory, we can start using them. You'll need to create a bitmap and a slice that is capable of displaying your shapes. Once this is done, however, you can blit your shapes onto the screen using one of the three blit modes available. `BLIT` mode isn't really of that much use if you want to move your shapes around the screen so we'll forget this for the moment and skip straight to `QBLIT` mode, possibly the most common blitting mode used by games programmers. Although `QBLIT` mode won't automatically restore the background bitmap whenever a shape is moved, it is still a lot faster than *Blitz*'s drawing mode, `BBLIT`.

`Qblit` mode works by storing the co-ordinates of each shape that you blit onto the screen in what *Blitz* calls a queue. Before you can make use of a queue, however, you need to create a Queue Object using the imaginatively-named Queue command. Its format is as follows.

```
Queue QUEUENUMBER, MAXITEMS
```

QUEUE NUMBERS

The Queue Number parameter defines the identifier number of the queue which you want to use. Using multiple queues can come in very handy when you wish to move a series of objects at different times.

MAXITEMS

In order for the Queue command to allocate the required amount of RAM, *Blitz* needs to know exactly how many objects you wish the queue to keep track of. If you have 20 shapes, then you should pass a value of 20. With the queue now initialised, you can draw your shapes onto the screen using the *Blitz*'s `Qblit` command. Its format is as follows.

```
Qblit QUEUE, SHAPE, X, Y [,EXCESS]
```

QUEUE

Not surprisingly, the Queue parameter tells the `Qblit` command the number of the queue to use when storing the information on the shape being blitted. Remember that any queues that you use with the `Qblit` command must be initialised first with the Queue command. It's important to make sure that you don't try to store too many shapes into a queue either – if the queue is not large

Before you can use shapes within your own programs, you'll need to create a shapes file by running an IFF image containing the shape images through the *Blitz Shapes* editor.

enough, then go back and increase its size.

SHAPE

The Shape parameter tells *Blitz* which shape the `Qblit` command should blit onto the screen.

X/Y

Not surprisingly, the X and Y parameters define where on the screen the shape is to be placed.

EXCESS

The optional Excess parameter comes in handy when the shape that you are drawing uses less bitplanes than the bitmap it is being drawn into. If you tried to blit such an object into a bitmap that had more bitplanes than the shape itself, the shape's colours would be completely wrong. By making use of the Excess parameter, however, you can instruct *Blitz* to automatically turn on or off any spare bitplanes.

The Excess parameter should be fed to the `Qblit` command in the form of a bitpattern with each bit representing an on/off value for the excess bitplanes.

Bit zero of the bitpattern will control the first excess bitplanes, bit 1 the second excess bitplane and so on. Passing a value of zero will turn off all excess bitplanes. **CU**



`Qblit` mode is ideal for fast games as it offers a good balance between speed and flexibility.

JARGON BUSTERS

- **GADGTOOLS:** A quick and easy method of adding Intuition gadgets to programs on the Amiga.
- **ASL:** This is a library of routines built into the Amiga's operating system on Workbench 2 or better machines which provides the programmer with a set of standard requesters to use within their programs.
- **BLIT:** This refers to a single operation of the Amiga's blitter chip. If a shape is said to be blitted onto the screen, this means that it has been drawn onto the screen by the blitter rather than by copying bitmap data with the processor.
- **BLITPLANE:** All Amiga screens are made up of bitplanes. Each blitplane extends the number of colours that a screen can display eg, a single bitplane screen can offer just two colours, an eight bitplane screen offers 256 colours.

NEXT MONTH

Jason Holborn will be showing us how to use the `Qblit` mode. So be prepared.



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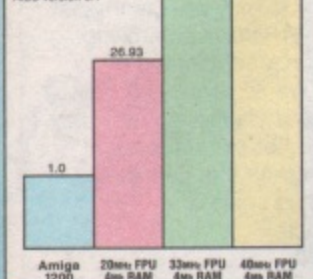
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Details taken from models available DEC 93

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INSIDE AREXX

Now that you've got a pretty good grasp of the AREXX language, it's time to take a plunge into task communications. Dressed in a flak jacket and wellies, Dave Smithson is our man in the field...



So far, our use of AREXX has been limited to the sort of jobs that could be handled equally well by any conventional programming language. Calculating VAT, processing strings and adding numbers together – these are all tasks that even the most archaic programming language could do. However, AREXX isn't just another programming language designed to add up numbers and process strings etc. Where AREXX really scores is its ability to act as a task mediator. AREXX may not have the sophistication or speed of languages such as C or Modula-2, but this is one feature that is unique to the AREXX language. The term 'task mediator' is rather grand but what does it mean? And why is it so special? If you've been following CU AMIGA's AREXX column over the past few months or so, then you may remember that we briefly dipped our toes into the murky waters of task mediation a couple of months back. Although we'll be covering much of the same ground again, it's important that you understand the fundamentals before we get too bogged down in code.

GURU MEDIATION

What task mediation offers the Amiga user is a quick and easy method of automating the operations of any program that supports the AREXX language. This unique feature of AREXX doesn't really come into its own until you have to perform long, drawn out operations over and over again – converting one hundred GIF format images to 320 by 256, 32 colour IFFs using a program like *Art Department Professional*, for example. If you were to try to convert all those images yourself, you'd soon get very bored indeed. By taking advantage of task mediation, however, AREXX allows you to write scripts that take away most, if not all, of the drudgery associated with such tasks, leaving you to do something far more productive (reading the latest issue of CU AMIGA over a cup of coffee, for example).

So how does it work? Well, built into every program that boasts AREXX compatibility is what the techies call an AREXX port. This port acts as a sort of backdoor into an application that allows AREXX to worm its way into the internal workings of a program and then take control over its operations.

How does AREXX control an application? Well, all AREXX compatible applications have built into

them a set of host commands that are hard-wired into that program's functions.

HOST FOR TONIGHT

These host commands provide an alternative method of controlling the operations of an application by allowing you to write an AREXX script that tells the application what to do in the form of a list of instructions. Say, for example, you wanted to automate the operations of your image processing program so that it would load in a GIF file and then convert it to a low resolution 32 colour IFF image. Because the image processing program allowed you to control its operations via AREXX, you could therefore write an AREXX script that did the job automatically. The script might look something like this.

```
Dummy Script
LoadFileFormat "GIF"
LoadImage "MyGIF.GIF"

ScaleImage 320 256

ReduceColours 32

SaveFileFormat "IFF"
SaveImage "MyIFF.IFF"
```

Although the above script is simply a product of my over active imagination, it does demonstrate beautifully how an application can be controlled by

an AREXX script. If you know your AREXX instruction set fairly well, then you'll already know that none of

Final Writer may be the most powerful word processor available for the Amiga, but writing AREXX macros for it can extend its power further.

the instructions that the above script uses – LoadFileFormat, ScaleImage etc – are actually part of the AREXX command set. That's because they are host commands – ie they are commands built into the program that AREXX is controlling. Each command offers an indirect method of accessing a function that would usually be clicked upon or selected by the user via the mouse – the LoadFileFormat command, for example, might change a gadget on the screen that sets the default file format for loading images.

PORTS OF CALL

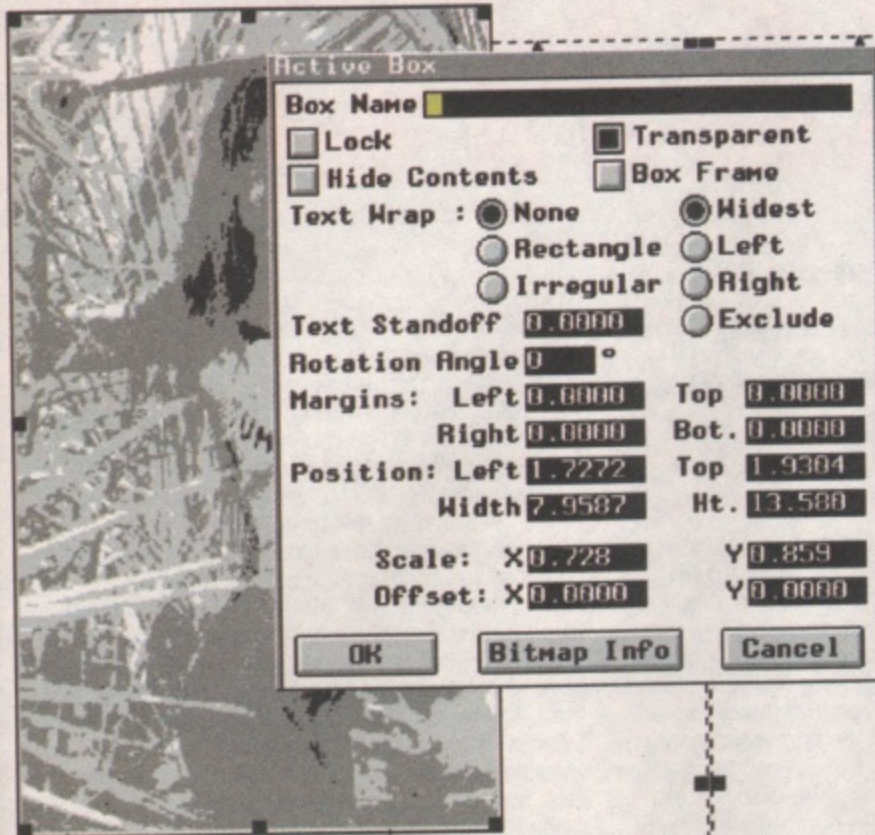
How does AREXX know which program it should be talking to? You could have two image processing programs running simultaneously, so how is AREXX to know which program it should be controlling? The answer lies in message ports.

Each and every application that is capable of being controlled by AREXX has its own message port that acts as a sort of identifier for that application. These message ports allow AREXX to distinguish between one application and another.

It's not a lot different from a telephone network – say, for example, you wanted to order a pizza. Before you could even think about what toppings you'd like (mine's a HAM, pepperoni and pineapple!), you'd need to know the phone number of the pizza delivery company. If you didn't know the pizza company's number, then you couldn't just pick up the phone and expect them to be on the other end of the line. AREXX is the same. In order for AREXX to control an application, it needs to



Professional Page V4.0 ©1993 Gold Disk Inc.



Gold Disk have gone to great lengths to let people know just how powerful its ARExx-based Genies are.

know the name of the application's message port. Once it knows this, it then attempts to establish a link with the application so that it can control it (ARExx dials up the application's phone number). If it is unable to establish a communications link (no one is at home – this usually happens because the program has not been loaded), then there's little point in continuing with the script. If a link is made, however, (the application picks up the phone and talks to ARExx), ARExx can start sending it orders.

Just like a real telephone network, every possible recipient has its own message port name which allows ARExx to distinguish between applications. So, even if you had two image processing programs running simultaneously, the chances of both applications having the same message port name is virtually nil, even if one was a direct rip-off of another. Below is a short list of the message port names of a few of the more popular ARExx-compatible applications.

Program	Manufacturer	Port Name
Scala MM200	Scala (UK) Ltd	rexx_ScalaMM
ADPro	ASDG	ADPro
ProPage 4.0	Gold Disk	PPAGEAREXX
Final Writer	Softwood	FinalW.1
TypeSmith	Soft-Logic	TYPESMITH

Even if the documentation supplied with a particular application doesn't tell you the name of the message port associated with that application, it's very easy to find out the message port name using the following short ARExx program. All it does is list every message port currently available.

```
/* List All Message Ports */
```

```
Say "Message Ports...."
Say Show(Ports,, '0a'x)
Exit
```

Once you know the name of the message port for the application you wish to control, you need to establish a link between your ARExx script and the application before you can start sending commands. This needs to be done each and every time the script is run. The command to establish a communications link is called Address and it simply expects to be fed the name of the message port enclosed with a set of single brackets (Address ADPro, for example).

It may not always be possible for ARExx to establish a communications link between ARExx and an application and therefore it's vitally important that you check to make sure that the link was successful before your script continues any further. Unfortunately, the Address command doesn't actually provide any method of checking this and therefore you need to use an alternative method that makes use of the Show() function that we used earlier. Say, for example, you wanted to establish a link with a port called CU AMIGA, but you wanted to make sure that the link was possible before proceeding. You could use the following section of code.

```
/* Check port demo */

exists = Show ('P', 'CUAmiga')
if exists = 0 then do
    Say "Unable to find message
port..."
    Exit
End

Address 'CUAmiga'
```

```
/* rest of program...*/
```

This uses the Show() function to check whether a message port called CU AMIGA exists. If the port does exist, the Show() function will return a value

of one, otherwise a value of zero is returned. This return value is then checked to see whether it contains a value of zero – if it does, an error message is displayed on the screen and execution of the script is terminated. If the return value is one, however, we can assume that the message port is available and therefore we can attempt to make the link with the Address command.

I've spent the last page or two hammering home the fact that you have to open a communications message port to an application before you can send it messages, now, I'm going to contradict myself – you don't always have to open the message port. This sounds silly, I know, but it is possible to issue host commands without opening the host message port first if the script is run from within the host itself. When this happens, the ARExx program ceases to be an ARExx script and suddenly becomes an ARExx macro. Because the script is run from within the application itself, the host message port is already available – a good example of this is Professional Page or even ASDG's Art Department Professional.

It is possible to communicate with AmigaDOS through a message port too by making use of the Command host. Say, for example, you wanted to launch an application from within your script (an ARExx-based menu program, for example) or just run a DOS command – all you'd have to do is to open a communications message port with AmigaDOS using the following line.

Address Command

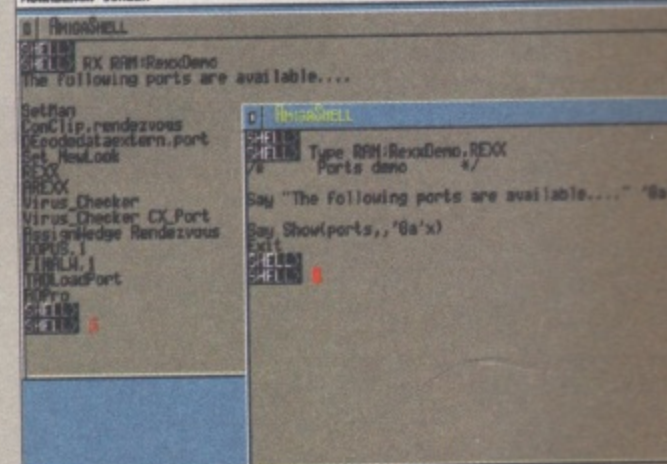
It's worth noting that the Command bit doesn't have a set of single quote symbols surrounding it, unlike a normal message port name. If you do add them, ARExx will be unable to access AmigaDOS. Once you've done this, you can run AmigaDOS commands simply by enclosing them within speech marks. Give this listing a whirl. **CU**

```
/* Command Demo */
```

Address Command

```
Say "Enter pathname to view"
Pull PATHNAME
"Dir" PATHNAME
Exit
```

WORKBENCH SCREEN



In order for an ARExx script to communicate with an application, you must first open a link to that application through its message port.

NEXT MONTH

We put all the theory we've learned into practice by writing an ARExx script to control ADPro.

DESKTOP PUBLISHING WORKSHOP

PART

2

Desktop publishing was invented on the Macintosh. But this doesn't mean that desktop publishing cannot be done to just as high a standard on an Amiga.

John Dodds explains.



Page make-up in 256 colours is not the fastest way to do it, even on an A4000/040. You would be better advised to work in 2 or 16 colours, flipping to 256 only when you feel the need to check a particular colour.

The Amiga has both the hardware and the software to desktop publish anything, but the more adventurous your ambitions, the more money you will need to spend. Last month, we covered printers and and bureaus. This month we conclude our desktop publishing tutorial by looking at memory requirements, scanners, graphic boards, publishing packages and monitors.

Producing the type of extremely high-quality PostScript output that is needed for professional printing and publishing can tie up the computer for literally hours per page, so to start with, you need a very fast computer unless you want to turn those hours into days. That means an A4000/040, A4000/030 or A3000. Professional equipment like SCSI hard drives, removable hard drives, lotsa-memory boards, scanners and graphics boards will also be needed, so you'll want an easily expandable Amiga. An A1200 with an accelerator in it may give you speed, but not expandability.

MEMORY REQUIREMENTS

After the computer, the next two most important items are storage and memory. It's easy to think that a 200Mb or 300Mb hard drive will be big enough but if you are planning to produce full-colour publications that contain 24-bit photographic images, the four PostScript separation files for a single page can easily total 40Mb-50Mb in size. You should be thinking in gigabytes for storage

space, not megabytes. Similarly, while 10Mb might sound like more memory than any program will ever need, a full-colour A4 page that contains a couple of true colour (24-bit) photographic images might require even more than this. It is possible to use virtual memory (using the hard drive as pseudo RAM), but keep in mind that this will slow down the operating speed of the computer quite considerably and may very well prove to be a false economy. Recently, I spent a whole day on a job that should have taken half-an-hour – I had to wait 10-15 minutes for the virtual memory to organise itself every time I made a slight change to what I was doing.

Virtual memory has its uses and is a much cheaper way to gain enormous amounts of extra memory, but for large jobs, it could cost you in time what you have saved in money. Miss that deadline and you may have lost a client. For professional work with true colour images, 64Mb of memory should be enough to get on with, but at the very least you should expand to 32Mb.

GRAPHICS

Working with true colour images can be tricky if you don't have facilities to view them. It's all well and good converting from a possible 16.8 million colours to HAM-8 or 256 colours in order to view them, but as good as these images may appear to be on the screen, the colours you are looking at will not be the same as those in the final true colour image. So, really you need a 24-bit graphics board. There are stacks of Amiga graphics boards to choose from, but the two that are currently most useful to desktop publishers, and, funnily enough, also happen to be the cheapest, are *Retina* and *Picasso II*. There is not a lot to choose between them. *Retina* carries more video RAM than *Picasso II*, which means that it can view larger images and use higher resolutions in 16.8 million colours than *Picasso II*. *Picasso II*, on the other hand, is a slicker product and much easier to set up and use with one monitor.

MONITORS

Ah, yes. Monitors. Multiscan is a must as it can display the Amiga's high quality screen modes. For best compatibility you need one that scans from the Amiga's 15.6KHz horizontal frequency right up to at least 35KHz. There are one or two obvious and cheap solutions, the Commodore 1942 or 1960, for example, or the Microvitec CubScan. But these are not ideal. Really, you need a bigger display, and

one that is as flat as possible so that straight lines down the edge of the screen remain straight, instead of curving slightly. One of the most attractive Amiga-compatible multiscan monitors around at the moment is the Idek MF-5017. It scans horizontally from 15.5kHz to 40kHz, has a reasonable .31 dot pitch, and a 17in display that can comfortably manage 1,024 by 768 pixels. It costs about £850.

The Idek MF-8217, however, is better value at £800. This model's horizontal scan frequency starts at 30kHz and rises to 65kHz, and although it does not support the Amiga's low resolution screen modes, the MF-8217 is perfect if you are using it in conjunction with a graphics card like *Retina* or *Picasso II*. It too has a 17inch display, but its 28 dot pitch and higher sync rates mean that the 1,280 by 1,024 dot pitch maximum screen resolution is still perfectly viewable. Thanks to a wonderful set of controls with 43 programmable presets, stacks of screen modes can be set-up without having to continually twiddle knobs to adjust the picture size and position. Working with a less expensive monitor is certainly possible, but if you spend a week with one of these larger, high-quality displays, I think you'd soon see how it can enable you to desktop publish faster. The main advantage is that you can work with most or all of the page on the screen without having to squint at the letters or zoom in to make adjustments.

SCANNERS

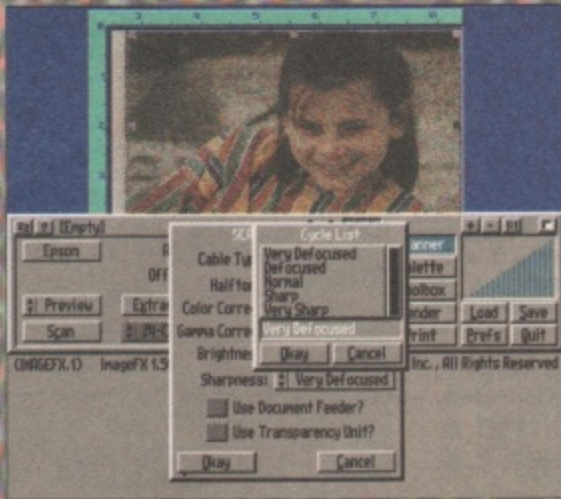
Getting true colour images into the computer requires a scanner. Professional drum scanners

CHOICES, CHOICES

You want a word processor for your publishing program, but which one? The three main publishing programs, *PageStream*, *PageSetter* and *Professional Page*, come with or have the option of a dedicated word processor that enables you to tap out your text quickly without the worry of having to format it.

The word processor that comes with *Professional Page* and *PageSetter* is called the Article Editor, or AE for short, and is a version of Gold Disk's *TransWrite*. AE can be used from within *Professional Page* and *PageSetter* or on its own. *PageStream* does not have a word processor included as standard, but if you buy Soft-Logik's *Hotlinks* package you get *PageLiner*, a word processor that is dedicated to working with *PageStream* and even includes facilities to use style tags. It too can be used on its own, but like AE does not have a print facility.

Should you want to prepare your text using a word processor that displays the text in a WYSIWYG format, be warned that doing it this way really is pushing the barrow uphill. This type of word processor — examples of which are *Wordworth 2* and *Final Copy II* — are much slower than the non-WYSIWYG word processors like *Protext* and *TransWrite*, and tend to let the look of the page get in the way of the writing.



Of the Amiga software available for the Epson GT-6500 flat-bed scanner, only the driver that comes with *ImageFX* supports the 6500's new and enhanced features.

are way beyond the average desktop publisher's budget, but flat-bed scanners, which have improved enormously in quality this year, have plummeted in price and are now very affordable indeed. The Epson GT-6500 flat-bed is a perfect example. Barely 12 months ago the GT-6000 model cost over £1,000, was a little slow and lacked certain features required by professionals. Now redesigned and rebadged as the GT-6500, it costs £700, is much faster and includes the all important sharpen/defocus feature.

Currently, the only scanning software that supports the enhanced features of the GT-6500, including the optional transparency unit and document feeder, is the Epson scanner driver that comes with GVP's *Image FX* version 1.5. ASDG and Black Belt Systems also have Epson scanner software to go with *ADPro* and *Imagemaster*, but these drivers were written for the earlier GT-6000 and lack support for the new features.

Scanning in true colour is another of those jobs that requires a fast Amiga, a large hard disk and lots and lots of memory. A typical 6in by 4in photograph scanned at 300 dots per inch would require almost 6.5Mb of memory to hold the 24-bit true colour data. If the software works in 32 bits, 8.5Mb will be required. GVP's *ImageFX* soft-

ware has a built-in data-catching system which uses the hard drive when you run out of memory, just like virtual memory does. While this artificially increases the memory capacity of your system for image data, it will slow the scanning process down considerably, just like virtual memory does. So I wasn't joking earlier when I recommended a minimum of 32Mb of memory.

PRINTERS

When the work is finished it's likely that your clients will want to see some colour proofs. There's no need to spend a fortune on this. Rough proofs from a colour inkjet like Hewlett-Packard's DeskJet 550C or Canon's new BJC-600, both of which cost about £700, will normally keep your client happy. If the work is A3 you can always reduce and rotate to A4 or smaller. If the job involves a lot of money then the client might want to see something better. And for your own peace of mind, you might want to see something better yourself.

Nothing less than a dye sublimation PostScript printer will do for true colour graphics art proofs. Such devices cost upwards of £7,500, and even then the colour accuracy is not 100%. If you can't afford or justify spending this kind of money then you can use a repro bureau – prices vary, so shop around. A lot of repro bureaus will offer free proofs if you give them the job of producing the films. The best place to see repro bureaus advertised is in Macintosh and graphic design magazines like *XYZ*.

If you want to give a firm of printers a colour proof and say, "I want a guarantee that it will look like this when it is printed" – a contract proof as it is known – output from a dye sublimation printer will not be acceptable. You will need something called a Cromalin, and the total cost of producing a single A4 Cromalin will be around £100-£150. Again, prices will vary depending on the complexity of the job and on how much business you put the repro bureau's way (look for cash discounts).

For general proofing to check for literals and layout, the most convenient device is a mono laser printer, but a much less expensive mono inkjet or bubble jet printer may serve your needs just as well.

PUBLISHING PACKAGES

Amiga desktop publishing software is about to take a giant leap forward. The technical specifications for Soft-Logik's *PageStream 3* are higher than for any other publishing software on any platform. Colour matching software for *ADPro* and the Epson scanner is soon to be available, and the likes of *ImageFX* and *Imagemaster*, and even *Brilliance* to a certain degree, are giving Amiga publishers true colour retouching and processing power that is every bit as powerful as similar packages on other platforms.

It might be a pipe dream that the Amiga and its software will become a new DTP standard, the Macintosh seems to be too deeply entrenched in the publishing and repro houses for that to happen, but it does look like the Amiga and its software will soon to be able to publish more quickly and to a higher standard than anything else, which could bring professional Amiga desktop publishers new clients by the busload. **CU**

JARGON BUSTERS

- **9-PIN/24-PIN PRINTER:** A low quality output device that strikes wire pins onto an inked ribbon in order to make marks on paper.
- **CMYK:** cyan, magenta, yellow, black; the four colours from which all the other colours in full colour publishing are created.
- **DPI:** dots per inch.
- **DYE SUBLIMATION:** A method of thermal transfer printing that melts coloured wax on to paper to print up to 16.8 million true colours and so produce rich, continuous tone, photographic-quality images.
- **FULL COLOUR:** material published using the four-colour CMYK printing process.
- **KHZ:** kilohertz, a unit used for measuring frequencies.
- **MB:** megabyte, a unit used for the measurement of memory/storage capacity.
- **MULTISCAN MONITOR:** a monitor that can work with a wide range of input frequencies. Often wrongly referred to as Multisync, which is actually a trade name like Hoover or Sellotape.
- **POSTSCRIPT:** a page description language that has become the standard for desktop publishing.
- **REPRO:** short for reproduction.
- **TRUE COLOUR:** 24-bit, 16.8 million colours.

SCINTILLATING SCANNERS

Scanners come in all shapes and sizes. To achieve professional quality results as cheaply as possible, there is only one type of scanner worth considering – the 24-bit flat-bed. On the Amiga the best choice is the Epson GT-6500 as there are a number of programs that support it with suitable drivers. The results obtained with the GT-6500 are better than with some rival flat-bed scanners that cost two or three times as much.

It is worth remembering that if you have only the occasional need to scan images then a bureau should be able to do it for you. There are drawbacks, most notably transporting the images between the bureau's scanner and your Amiga because the file size of scanned images can become very large, much larger than will fit on to a floppy disk. Bureaus usually charge about a tenner per scan, less for bulk orders.

If your requirements are not that exacting and the subject material is non-photographic, a monochrome hand scanner may suit your needs. These are good for line art, images like logos and cartoons, and although you can scan photographs with a monochrome scanner, don't expect the quality to be anywhere near as good as those you see in the magazine you are reading now. There are two good choices of mono scanner, the AlfaData Plus with the excellent Touch-Up software, or the PowerMono Scanner.

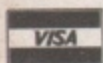
Quality-wise, colour hand scanners fall somewhere between the mono hand scanner and the 24-bit flat-bed. There are currently three options, with the lowest priced being the PowerColour, which is a 12-bit scanner. The results from it are not that different from the other two, the AlfaColor and Migraph's ColorBurst, which are 18-bit scanners. None of these will give you photo-realistic results.

There is no PowerColour model for the Amiga 1200 at the moment which means 1200 owners will need to choose between the ColorBurst and the AlfaColor. ColorBurst produces the better colour images and has the most stable software, but it also costs more. ColorBurst also includes an optical character recognition program for converting scanned text into a form that

your word processor can edit. It's also worth noting that colour hand scanners will produce better scans of mono photographs than you would get from a monochrome scanner. This is because colour hand scanners have a greyscale mode that scans in 64 true shades of grey instead of being dithered or anti-aliased as the monochrome scanners do to achieve levels of grey.



24-bit flat-bed scanners are the best scanners for achieving professional quality results at a good price.



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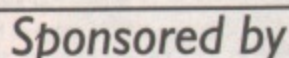
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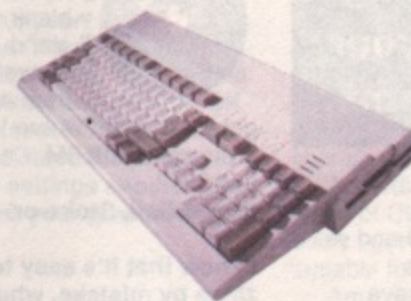
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The Q&A team sift through the detritus of reader's letters to bring you the facts on all your questions and problems.

A600 EXPANSION



I want to buy an A1200 and sell my A600. However, it's rumoured that M-Tec have accelerator boards called 68020i and 68030MMU for the A600. Is this true, and if so what kind of speed increase will this give me?

I own a Commodore 1084 colour monitor, if I buy an A1200 will this monitor be adequate? I have heard that the A1200 supports flicker-free interlace screens and that the 1084 does not – will this be the only problem?

T.S. Nielsen, Lang, Denmark.

It's impossible to say how much faster the (rumoured) accelerator card would go because you don't mention the clock speed. 14MHz? 25MHz? 33MHz? 50MHz? It makes a big difference, but even a 14MHz 68020 will run at least twice as fast as the A600.

As long as you don't use the new flicker-free DoublePAL, DoubleNTSC, Super72 or Multiscan productivity screen modes the 1084 will continue to give a clear crisp image.

CDTV REVELATIONS



In the February issue of CU AMIGA you said you couldn't upgrade a CDTV to Kickstart 2.04. Well you can, but first you need to fit a switch to turn off the CD-ROM.

By the way, turning off the CD-ROM allows you to load a lot more programs than normal. In fact, *Humans* is the only incompatible game. The only down side to turning the CD-ROM drive off is that it disables the SCSI interface so you would have to turn it on again if you were going to fit a hard drive.

John Alfred, Hyde, Cheshire.

What we hoped to imply in the February issue of CU AMIGA was that you could fit the 2.04 ROMs to a CDTV, but as they didn't include the CD-ROM code there wasn't really much benefit. You might as well have bought an A600 or A500Plus.

Turning off the CD-ROM drive can actually be done with software alone (check your local

HERE THEY ARE FOLKS - THE Q&A TEAM



JOHN KENNEDY
Joined to an Amiga at birth, what John doesn't know about the Amiga can fill a matchbox.



MAT BROOMFIELD
What Mat doesn't know about matchboxes can fill an Amiga – his fave machine.

PD library for *cdoff* and *cdon* written by Almathera guru Jolyon Ralph).

The CDTV doesn't come with a SCSI interface as standard so I don't know how it could be switched off.

GIVE IT A BOOT



Please, please help me. I have been trying for weeks and weeks now to make a boot-block on a blank disk so I that can make a stand-alone disk. To attempt this I have been following a guide from another magazine and have

got to the point where I have to use a small program called VILBM. Can you tell me where I can find this?

Martin Bell, Stoke-on-Trent.

I know that it's easy to pick up other magazines by mistake, what with the covers all being identical and everything (ahem!). In fact, I've heard that certain other Amiga magazines are going to try a red cover as well to see if that will boost their flagging sales.

In the meantime, I'm not really sure what use VILBM will be to you. VILBM doesn't have anything to do with making a disk boot – it is a utility to display pictures.

Here is how to make a disk bootable. Boot from your Workbench disk and format a fresh disk. Rename it "Brian", at least for the moment. Open a shell and enter:

```
install brian: <return>
```

If you only have one floppy drive you'll need to enter the following first:

```
resident c:install <return>
```

When this disk is inserted, the Amiga will look for a file called startup-sequence in a directory called s. At the moment neither exist, so enter this at the shell:

```
makedir brian:s
```

To create the startup-sequence, use a text editor program like ed. Enter:

```
ed brian:s/startup-sequence
```

Now you can enter the commands you want the Amiga to execute when it is switched on. If you do want a picture displayed, add something like:

```
brian/vilbm mypicture.iff
```

But you must remember to copy VILBM and your picture to the disk. Getting hold of VILBM isn't difficult – it's in every PD library in the land. Ask your favourite library for a disk full of graphics utilities and you are bound to find it or one that's similar.

Workbench 2 comes with display and Workbench 3 with multiview which are more

powerful. To use these programs make sure you have copied the LIBS: drawer to your new boot floppy.

HARD DONE BY



As an owner of a CDTV I feel very hard done by. I bought my machine 12 months ago, with the promise of more good things to come for the CDTV scene. Now we are told the CDTV is dead and the new CD32 is out:

with lots of up-to-date games available. The only thing that's wrong is that you can't play them on a CDTV – does this mean there will not be any new games for the CDTV?

Don't get me wrong, I like my machine a lot, apart from its shortfall in memory. I've also heard that it's possible to switch off the drive to get the memory back?

J.A. Davies, Barnstaple, North Devon.

Every machine will be superseded eventually, and the CDTV's time came just a little too soon. However, there are a going number of compatible disks stuffed full with PD utilities and games, so it's wrong to say that the CDTV is not supported any more.

As you'll have read in the previous letter, regaining the RAM taken by the CD-ROM drives is possible without resorting to hardware.

DEGRADING EPISODE



Having replaced my trusty A500 with a sparkling new A1200, I find to my dismay that I can no longer run my beloved *Video Studio* (v3). Moreover, the originators, ZVP, have apparently put up the shutters.

I've tried Fakemem and Degradar, as well as the two-button start-up menu suggested by Commodore but without success. Am I missing a trick somewhere, or have I really got to scrap the program?

W.W. Windsor, Winslow, Buckingham.

There comes a time when you have to give up, and I'm afraid that time is now. No matter what version of *Kickstart* your Amiga thinks it is running, no matter what caches you have switched off, and no matter how fake your memory is, some programs simply won't work on the A1200.

The problem is with the new AGA chipset. Commodore have been telling programmers for years not to poke around but to follow the guidelines, and do they listen? No – well, not if they want to push the hardware that little bit further. In this case you'll have to give up.

It's not all bad news though, there are new graphics and video programs coming on to the market all the time and most will not just support the AGA chips, they will also take full advantage of all the new modes. Search out a replacement, and let *Video Studio* finally rest in peace.

SEEDY CONNECTIONS



After waiting and waiting for a CD ROM add-on for my A1200, and then finding out that it is not going to be available for a while, I went out and purchased the CD32 console instead – I'm very impatient, you see.

What I would like to know is, will it be possible to link the two machines together and if so, will my A1200 recognise and make use of both the CD drive and the extra 2Mb of RAM?

Also, if they can't be linked together will I be able to use demos, anims and games from one of the many PD CD collections on the CD32? P.D Sprakes, Henlow, Beds.

Commodore upset a lot of people by announcing a CD add-on for the A1200 and then snatching it away. I suspect a lot of A1200 owners held back from buying a CD32 in case the drive appeared, and probably got so bored waiting that they bought something else instead (like a PC).

Anyway, yes it is possible to network the CD32 and the A1200 together, but you will need to buy the forthcoming SXI. Indi (tel: 0543 419999) are taking orders for them, and when I spoke to them promised availability by the time you read this.

When you have the SXI connected to the CD32, the PD program *ParNet* and a special cable is all that is needed. The A1200 can then access the CD-ROM drive and the 2Mb of RAM as though they were normal AmigaDOS devices. Also, many game and demo CDs will work on the CD32 already.

GOBBLEDYGOOK



I purchased a secondhand Epson MX100:111 for my son to use with his Amiga 1200. On a self-test it prints perfectly, but when connected to the Amiga using all the Epson drivers available it prints gobbledygook.

I have made a parallel lead using both manuals, but leaving the 5 volt line from the Amiga disconnected and altering the printer DIP switches to suit. What's going on?

R. Carter, Canvey Island, Essex.

Looking at the print-out (in which about one letter in every 10 is correct) I have to say that I suspect the cabling. Nothing personal, but are you sure every line is connected correctly? D0 to D0, D1 to D1 and so on? Is the wiring used actually up to the job? Leaving out the 5 volt line was a very good thing to do – if you had left it in, the printer may have been damaged.

After spending many years as a student, forced to use homebrew printer cables, we know all about dodgy wiring. Believe me, £10 spent in Dixons on a proper lead is a real investment in saving time, paper and tempers.

To discover exactly what is wrong you will need to check your Amiga, your printer and your cable. Find a friend with another computer and printer (or visit your local computer club) and try connecting your printer to his computer. Then connect his printer to your computer. Then try again using your lead. This will help you trace the fault.

There are several pitfalls when buying printers second hand. Firstly, you can never be sure that the thing works unless you see it: a self-test isn't good enough, as it only tests the print head and not the interface. Secondly, if you get an obscure piece of kit, you can bet that you'll

spend the rest of your life trying to track down a printer driver.

TOO FAST?



I own an Amiga A1200 with an internal 120Mb hard drive. However, a few games, loaded from the hard drive don't work. The sound is good but the pictures are all mixed up. What's going on?

Versmissen Thierry, Athus, Belgium and S. Ratcliff, Hollywood, Birmingham.

Apparently some hard drives can work too fast for particular software and as a result some data gets corrupted as it is read.

Search out the program called *HDTtoolbox* on your Workbench, and select the partition drive option. For each partition, click on the advanced options button and then click on the button marked change which will appear.

Find the box labelled MaxTransfer, it should read 0xFFFFF as a default setting. Change this so that it reads 0xFFFF instead and click on OK until you reach the first screen. Finally click on 'save changes to drive' and leave the program. When you reboot, the new settings should come into effect and with any luck your graphics will be fine.

OCTA-LINKING



Can you tell me how to connect two Amigas together so the Ext. Sync function of *OctaMED* will give me four more precious sound channels. What do I need? Where do I get it? And most importantly, how much? If this is possible,

would an A500+ be compatible with my pride and joy – my A1200 of course.

Kevan Gordon, Travent, Scotland.

This is a good trick to get eight track audio: *OctaMED* can send and receive timing signals so that two Amigas will remain locked together.

I used to think this required a MIDI connection, with each Amiga fitted out with a MIDI interface and leads. However, I've just discovered that you can do away with MIDI totally – you simply need a NULL modem cable – a simulated modem link which links two computers together without actually using a modem. It's the same sort of lead that is used to link Amigas when playing games such as *Stunt Car Racer*.

Connect the computers together in this way, and then select the MIDI options page in both copies of *OctaMED*. Ensure MIDI ACTIVE is on, then set SEND SYNC on one Amiga, and EXT SYNC and INPUT on the other. When you click on play on the first Amiga, the second will start at the same time. As this trick uses the serial port, it will work on any two Amigas. For more information check out Sound Lab on page 172.

MY PERFECT COUSIN



I am Quang from Norway and I am 15 years old. I own an A500 and an A600.

However, my cousin has a clicking thing from an electric lighter which he clicked on my A500. He clicked on the mouse port and now my A500 is dead. The red light is on but then you put a disk in it doesn't do anything. Did he crash my A500? What's wrong? Is it a chip? Nguyen Duc Quang, Oslo, Norway.

Tut, tut. The old clicking thing ploy, eh? A clicking thing is actually a piezo electric static electricity generator. By quickly altering the shape of a piezo-electric crystal, a large electric potential is created and a spark jumps to a nearby earth.

In your case the nearby earth happened to be an A500's mouse port. Clicking this was a terribly unfortunate thing to do, as a gigantic voltage spike (several thousand volts) would have shot into the Amiga's chips, blowing them to smithereens. It's probably not one chip that's broken, but all of them.

This is definitely a case where you should threaten to grass on your cousin unless he buys you a CD32. And take that damn clicky thing off him too before he breaks anything else.

C FOR YOURSELF



I'm 14 years old and I would love to learn how to program the Amiga. I've already dabbled with BASIC, but I'd rather learn a language which would be accepted by a software company if I ever decide to aim for a career

in programming.

According to a reply to a letter in the January issue of CU AMIGA, the best language is C, however, I get the impression that it is only really suitable for programming serious applications.

Am I right in thinking this, or is it possible to program top games, such as *Body Blows* or *Zool2* with C? Also, I've been looking at the prices of some C compilers. SAS/C costs £250 and I can't afford that.

However, one of your rival magazines is offering the full DICE C package including manual, compiler and all the necessary files for £25. Is this a good quality C implementation?

M. Buckley, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

C is an excellent language, and yes, you could use it to write top games. Modern C compilers produce code which is almost as quick as hand-written assembler – the fastest code possible. More and more games companies will be moving towards C when they realise the time and money this cross-platform language can save. Also, any real time critical code can be written in assembler and included in the C program very easily.

The DICE (Dillon's Integrated C environment, a public domain C compiler and nothing to do with our good Tony) system is available from most good public domain libraries, so this could be the most affordable way yet to program the Amiga.

Unfortunately, you must bear in mind that it takes a very long time to learn enough about C and the Amiga before you could write a game like *Body Blows*. For this reason I recommend that you try *BlitzBasic2* first. *Blitz* is based on BASIC but has some very advanced C-like features. Even better, it comes with lots of routines for handling graphics and sound, routines which you would have to write yourself if you were using a C system.

QUESTION TIME



Could you please answer a few simple questions for me?

1. Is my Amiga 500+ outdated and worth flogging in the local paper?
2. Is it cheaper to buy an Amiga 1200 with a CD-ROM or a fully expanded CD32?
3. Is there a trapdoor expansion on the CD32?

- » 4. With the port block for the CD32, will I be able to use my external disk drive?
5. What version of *Kickstart* is in the CD32 and what version of Workbench does it need?
6. Will any of the famous programs like AMOS and *Deluxe Paint* AGA be available on CD?
7. How long do CDs last?
8. Will an FMV module come out for the A1200's CD-ROM?
9. Will the existing Amiga mouse work on a CD32?
10. Will MicroProse come out with a CD version of *Formula 1 GP*?
11. What is the best Amiga alive?
12. Will it ever be possible to save on CD and if so would it be called a CD BSD (Big Storage Disk)?
13. I have heard things about Amiga VR. Is this true and if so when will it be available?
14. Is there going to be an AAAA chipset and if so would it have more than 16.7 million colours?
15. Lastly, when are Commodore going to have transformers built-in, because at the moment I have a house brick missing and I am using my transformer in its place.
Niki Ferrari, Stoke-on-Trent.
1. Yes, it is outdated, but flogging it is a bit extreme. A severe smack on the back of the legs should do.
2. At the moment there is no official CD-ROM upgrade. It is possible to add a CD-ROM player, but not one that will play all CD32 games.
3. There is a port on the back for the addition of the FMV module.
4. Eh? Run that by me again? If you are referring to the forthcoming CD32 expansion system, then yes - expansion floppy disk drives is what it's for.
5. An enhanced version of Kickstart 3, as used in the A1200 and A4000, with some extra code for the CD-ROM device and (allegedly) some support for networking.
6. A very interesting question. At the moment, only games and PD software collections are released on CD but if the CD32 continues to sell strongly and other Amiga owners get into CD-ROM then serious software will happen - and the sooner the better.
7. Years. I have a Genesis CD single from 1986 and it still works fine.
8. It doesn't look as though there is going to be a CD32 compatible CD-ROM add-on for the Amiga 1200, so an FMV cartridge is unlikely.
9. It should, although what would you do with it?
10. If they have any sense.
11. There are no live Amigas. Contrary to pop-

ular opinion, all Amigas are all inanimate objects.

12. It's possible to save to CD at the moment, although the special players that can do so cost several thousand pounds. Unfortunately, the manufacturers missed the marketing opportunity of a lifetime and called it Writeable CD-ROM and not CD BSD.

13. You said you heard it, and I'm not going to call you a liar. But it won't happen.

14. There might well be an AAAA chipset, although Commodore might have thought of a better name by then. There is little point in having more than 16.7 million colours, as the human eye can't distinguish between any more.

15. Commodore will build transformers into their computers when every country decides to standardise their domestic electricity supplies. I like the big warm brick - I can take my shoes off and keep my feet on top of it.

PCMCIA... THINGY



I have an A600 with a Commodore 1Mb RAM expansion, a second floppy drive and an 80Mb hard drive. I want to upgrade my memory with the addition of a PCMCIA smart card, but in the January Get Serious

section of CU AMIGA you said that most trapdoor expansions disable anything plugged into the PCMCIA port. Does this include my 601 expansion?
David Eastwood, Huddersfield, West Yorks.

We had a quick word with Silica Systems (tel: 081 309 1111) who sell the Amitek PCMCIA memory cards, and they assured me that memory fitted to the trapdoor of the A600 won't be affected by memory fitted via the card slot. On the A1200 this doesn't necessarily hold true, and will depend on exactly what you have stuck in the trapdoor.

However, I think the best way to upgrade your memory would actually be to swap the A600 for an A1200. Not only will you then have 2Mb of RAM as standard, but you'll get a great increase in speed and the fabby AGA chipset. Your external floppy drive will continue to work with the A1200, and any good dealer should be able to take the hard drive from the A600 and put it in the A1200 for you.

A2000 EXPANSION



I have a secondhand A2000 HD with Workbench 1.3. What is the best way to upgrade in the future?

N. Luxford, Colney Heath, St Albans.

For a start, get a Workbench 2 update pack with the new ROM, Workbench disks and manuals. I have spoken to various users who swear that Workbench 1.3 is great and hey!, we like orange and blue anyway.

Both Workbench 2 and 3 are a quantum leap away from 1.3 and you owe it yourself, N. Luxford, to upgrade to a more powerful and more stable environment.

As you are lucky enough to have an A2000 you therefore have lots of lovely ZorroII card slots and also a snazzy CPU and video expansion slot. Silica Systems (tel:081 309 1111) are

selling a 68020 card rather cheaply and this will speed your computer up considerably, as well as adding some useful extra memory.

If you happen to be an eccentric millionaire, get a 68030 or 68040 expansion card and add a Picasso II video board.

NUTTY OVER NOTATION



I'm getting into music on the Amiga, and I'm especially interested in the MIDI side of things. I've worked out that I need a MIDI sequencer program, but I'm afraid that they'll all be too complicated. I can read proper

musical notation, so I really need a program that uses this. Am I asking too much?
Adam Priestly, Liverpool.

Of course you're not asking too much - the Amiga is capable of almost anything. The best music sequencing program available (at the time of writing) is without doubt *Bars and Pipes Pro*.

In fact, *Bars and Pipes* has recently won awards for being the best sequencer on ANY computer, so I'm not alone in my thinking.

Like any powerful program it will take time to learn, but when you master *Bars and Pipes* you'll be extremely happy, and no matter how complicated your MIDI set-up it will keep pace.

Contrary to what I may have indicated in the past, one of the most powerful features (and one of the best hidden in the menus) is the musical notation section. Instead of the usual coloured blob approach, real notes on real staves can be displayed.

You can also use guitar notation, chords, a mixture of notes and blobs (good for drum parts) and even add lyrics. The notation method used can vary from track to track, so your keyboard parts can use a piano roll system and guitar parts can use proper guitar tabulator.

COMMS CONUNDRUM



Can I use an external modem intended for use with a PC with my Amiga A1200 and then simply use NComm? The reason I am asking is that the PC 14,400 baud modems seem to be cheaper than the ones advertised for the Amiga.

J.S Smith, Wincobank, Sheffield.

The Amiga supports the same RS232 standard serial port as the PC, so any external MODEM will work fine. No modem is manufactured especially for use with Amiga or the PC - they are designed to work with RS232.

The exceptions to this rule are the internal modems common in the PC world. These cards will only in a PC (without going down the route of bridgeboards and PC emulators). NComm is an excellent choice of software (but consider Term as well) and will work with any Comms hardware.

As far as pricing goes, I've been looking around myself and I've found that after the inclusion of VAT and postage the prices are almost identical.

NEXT MONTH

If you have any questions concerning your Amiga or peripherals, write to us at CU AMIGA, Priory Court, 30-32 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3AU.

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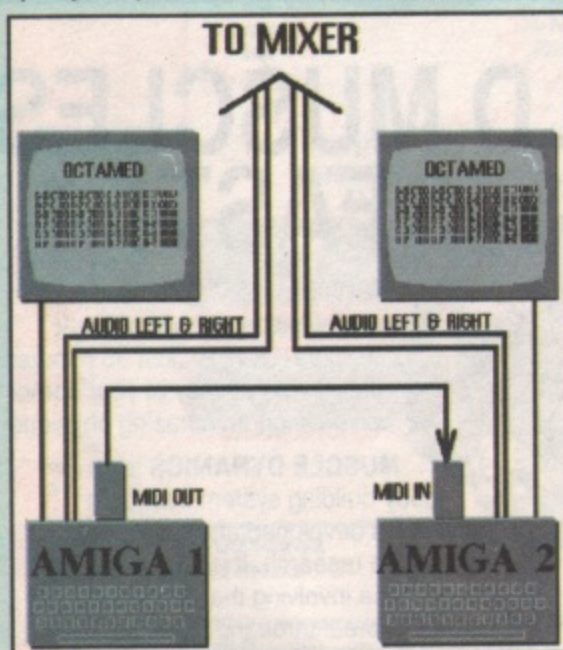
SOUND LAB

Funky stunts of MIDI trickery, including how to get eight top-quality sample tracks, are revealed in part three of Tony Horgan's essential *OctaMED 5* tutorial.

If you thought *OctaMED* was just a sample tracker like Protracker, think again. The enormous advantage *OctaMED* has over any other tracker is its MIDI power. Apart from giving you 64 MIDI tracks to play with, it opens up plenty of other exciting avenues too.

SYNCHRONIZED AMIGAS

One of the best MIDI tricks you can perform with *OctaMED* is synchronising two Amigas. This might seem like a bit of an expensive gimmick, but your second Amiga could be a standard 1Mb A500, which, these days, you can pick up for as little as £150. The great advantage of hooking up two is that you double the amount of sample channels available. Instead of settling for the normal eight channel mode with its reduced sound quality, by connecting two Amigas, you can have eight top-quality sample channels. Here's how it's done.



TOP MIDI TIPS

* When using more than four tracks, avoid eyestrain by selecting either four or eight maximum on-screen tracks. You still keep the extra tracks, but you'll need to scroll horizontally with the cursor keys to access the later ones. Older versions of *OctaMED* have no four-track limiter, but you can use the NO16 button from the MISC panel to view just eight at once. With *OctaMED 5* you can use the DISPLAY MAX TRACKS option from the Settings menu.

* Heavy MIDI usage sometimes leads to timing delays, usually when there are a lot of MIDI events happening on the same line, often the first of the block. To get around this, use the FF2 command on instruments that are not too time sensitive (such as chords for example). Putting this on the line where the note is triggered will delay it slightly. This helps avoid a log-jam situation, and will go unnoticed when used on the right sounds.

Take a look at the diagram, bottom left, to get some idea of what's going on. You're going to be using a MIDI link between two Amigas, both of which are running *OctaMED*, with one acting as the 'master' and the other as the 'slave'. You will use the slave machine as your second set of four sample tracks, and construct a song parallel to the main song on the master Amiga. When you hit PLAY SONG on the master Amiga, a message will be sent to the slave Amiga telling it to play its own tune at the same time. The result is two perfectly synchronised *OctaMED* songs, which can then be fed into a mixer and combined into one eight channel soundtrack.

YOU WILL NEED:

* Two Amigas.

Any Amiga will do, but if your second Amiga is a 1.3 machine, remember you'll need a version of *OctaMED* that doesn't require a 2.04 operating system (such as *OctaMED 3* for example). Different versions of *OctaMED* should be able to talk to each other without any problem.

* Two TVs or monitors.

You could get around this problem by connecting both Amiga video outputs to a switch, and view them one at a time through the same screen.

* Two MIDI interfaces.

* One MIDI cable.

* A four-channel line mixer.

Four channel mic mixers are available, but the output from your Amigas will be too loud for one of these.

* Three sets of stereo phono cables or six mono phono cables.

* Your usual amplification system (hi-fi or suchlike).

CONNECTING UP

Hooking the two Amigas together is quite simple, but refer to the diagram if you get lost. Connect up each Amiga to the mains and TV/monitor as usual, but leave the power off for now. Plug your MIDI interfaces into the serial ports of the Amigas. Plug the MIDI cable into the MIDI OUT port on your master Amiga, and plug the other end into the MIDI IN port on your slave Amiga.

Connect the audio outputs of your Amigas to the mixer. If your mixer has the facility, pan each of the four inputs to your preferred stereo positions. In this case, make sure you keep any prominent bass sounds in the centre of the stereo field. Power-up both machines, boot them both with *OctaMED*, and you're off.

MIDI Settings	
✓ MIDI Active	AM
Input Active	AU
Input Channel...	A1
Ext Sync	A1
Send Sync	A2
Send Active Sensing	A3
Send Out Input	A4
Read Key-Up's	A5
Read Volume	A6
Reset Pitch/Presets	
Send MIDI Reset	
Send Local Control	*
Note Killing	*

All of *OctaMED 5*'s MIDI options are found on the MIDI menu.

SETTING IT UP

Whether you're using *OctaMED 5* or a previous version, the options you need to set are the same, but are found in different places. On your master Amiga, you need to turn on the following options: MIDI ACTIVE and SEND SYNC. On the slave Amiga, set MIDI ACTIVE and EXTERNAL SYNC. That should do it. Now you can build your songs using up to eight samples simultaneously. Remember, you don't need to use eight channel mode for this - leave it in the normal four channel mode.

If you're using *OctaMED 5*, the above options are found in the MIDI menu. For previous versions of *OctaMED*, click the MIDI button from the top section, and click the appropriate buttons on the MIDI panel.

Use the song control buttons on the master Amiga. Whenever you click PLAY SONG on the master, the slave will also start playing its song. Similarly, when you hit STOP PLAYING on the master, both Amiga's will stop. For playing single blocks, use the PLAY BLOCK button on the relevant Amiga. You'll only hear one block when you do this, as the PLAY BLOCK command is not transmitted down the MIDI cable.

When it comes to saving out your files, you will of have two files for each eight-channel song. If you're using one Amiga with more memory than the other, you may end up with one song file larger than the other, so it's a good idea to mark each file with a note that tells you which Amiga it was created with (for example a .MASTER or .SLAVE extension on the filename). Next month, we'll figure out how to get the best from a combined MIDI and sample-sequencing setup. **CU**

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BACKCHAT

Tony Dillon is a man of letters ... and they're all yours. So if you feel the need, the need to speak (eh?), the need to get your doubts or opinions out in the open, then drop a line to CU AMIGA's BACKCHAT.

LETTER OF THE MONTH

FINGER LICKING GOOD

I have put pen to paper because I can no longer sit back and watch Amiga games players be the butt of jokes, aimed at them by their console owning friends. Why are Amiga owners targets for such derision? Fire buttons, that's what.

Since the dawn of time, or at least the Atari 800 computers have had one fire button. But in this age of 32-bit computers and flashy consoles we should all be capable of coming up to date with Sega and Nintendo and have at least two or three independent fire buttons on our joysticks. Joypads are already available that are compatible with the Amiga, but as the software only supports one button joysticks at the moment, only one will work.

So how do we go about getting games that work with 2 and 3 button joysticks? Well, it's all up to Commodore. All of their new machines should come with one of these joysticks as standard. They don't cost much, so that's not going to add much to the cost of a new Amiga. Okay it's no good if the software houses don't support them, but that's no excuse if they become standard equipment.

But what about people who don't have a multi-button joystick? Three options are open to them:-

1. Go into your little brother's bedroom and kick him off his SEGA, nicking the joypad along the way.
2. Beg your parents to buy you one for Christmas.
3. Or, on the option screen of the game you're playing, select 1 button joystick mode (remember to put this one in programmers).

T.O.D. THE GUYS, Manchester.

I agree. We do need more games that support more than a single firebutton. With the advent of the CD32, perhaps most AGA software will be written to accommodate the multi-button joypads. By the same stroke, why can't we have multi-button joysticks? I, for one, don't like using joypads and would rather use something like a multi-button Konix Speedking.

A BIT OF FRIENDLY ADVICE

Firstly, I'd like to thank you all for seeming to be Amiga enthusiasts - it's nice to know that a leading Amiga magazine isn't run by a load of businessmen.

However, if you are real Amiga enthusiasts, then prove it by switching to the Amiga to produce CU AMIGA when *Pagestream 3* is released. After having received an information pack from Soft-Logik, I see that *Pagestream 3* has around 60 features (including unlimited undo/redo) that aren't present in *QuarkXpress* (some of which would no doubt enhance your already near-perfect design). With the superior multi-tasking bevelled Workbench 3 operating system (which far outperforms System 7) and the blinding speed of the Amiga 4000, I suggest switching to the Amiga.

I respect the fact that the manager of EMAP Images wouldn't want to dump his beloved Macs (even though *Pagestream 3* on the Amiga is the best DTP package available) but get the message across nicely and beg (if necessary) to use the superior Amiga - you'll get your way in the end!

Imagine a network of Amiga 4000s all linked to each other, all running the premier desktop publisher. Okay, I realise the Mac's childish operating system and one-button mouse may have a certain charm, but seeing that CU AMIGA is always ahead of the rest, wouldn't using Amiga 4000s and *Pagestream 3* give CU that little extra boost over its competitors.

Nathan White, Walsall.

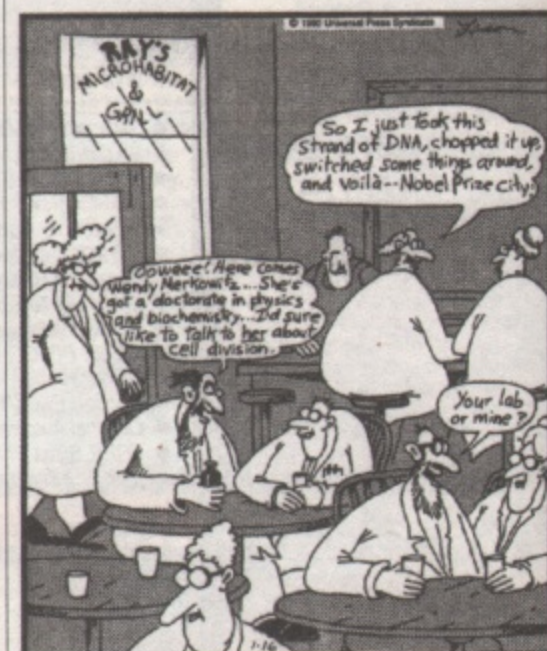
It's an interesting idea, but with all the money invested in our Macintosh set up (CU AMIGA isn't the only magazine EMAP Images produces!), there is no way Lord Emap would want to shell out for more equipment. I totally agree with you, though, *Pagestream 3* is super.

FEELING DOOMY

Where is it? Why haven't we got it? I'm talking about the most kick-ass, kickbutt, headbutt, kick everything game there is, and it's taking the PC world by storm. I'm talking *Doom*. Don't tell me none of you have played it. I've never experienced a game as awesome. It's probably the closest thing to VR, short of a headset. I'm fortunate

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



Scientific meat markets.

enough to use a 486/66 at work and *Doom* plays so smoothly on it, that it begs the question: "Who needs a 64-bit Jaguar for fast 3D environments?"

The ability to run anywhere, in any direction and see the texture-mapped walls and floors fly by is incredible to see. The layouts of each level are so imaginative, and the sheer size of each level is just awesome. It's streets ahead of anything I've seen on the Amiga. Surely the A1200 with its 020 processor and specialised graphic handling could run something like *Doom* just as smoothly. PC games like *Comanche*, *Doom* and *Frontier* all have texture mapping. This makes PC games look a whole lot more desirable than Amiga games. Why didn't the Amiga version of *Frontier* have texture mapping for accelerated machines?

I notice the SNES is about to have *Wolfenstein*, *Doom*'s forerunner. This means games of the *Doom* genre are convertible but will *Doom* ever be released on the Amiga? The CD32

TEAM TALK

The CU AMIGA team have been totally obsessed with the Oscars this month - so you're lucky to be have a magazine at all. Because of this they've decided to share their own dreams of screen stardom with you.

ALAN -

Big Al always wanted to be Troy Tempest from the Gerry Anderson series, *Stingray*. Alas, he never got the job.



Could it be that his brow was too manly, his jaw too square? No, it's because he insisted that his contract had no strings attached - so the whole deal collapsed.

LISA -

Metal ruler wielder and newly-promoted (after many threats) deputy editor, Lisa Collins, has always fancied being Purdy from the *Avengers* - and she has the right qualifications too. Not only is she long of leg, she also regularly wears twelve inch stilettos and executes expert high kicks.



TONY D

Our games editor is obsessed with being Tom Baker's *Doctor Who*. The scarf, the hair and a room with holes in the walls were what really attracted him to it and, let's face it, since Tony is no stranger to visits from the style police in real life, he would suit the role admirably.



has the chunky to planar chip to aid in PC conversions, surely this would help in converting *Doom*.

I wouldn't be at all surprised if *Doom* is the real reason Dan Slingsby left CU AMIGA to join a PC magazine.

Mark Fox, High Wycombe.

I know this is going to be hard for most people to swallow, but *Doom* isn't coming out on the Amiga. With the exception of the A4000, there isn't a machine that could run it. Yes, it is a superb game, but only possible because of the PC's direct screen addressing. ID say they have no interest in creating an Amiga version, so unless you know some way of persuading them, it isn't going to happen.

COME UPSTAIRS?

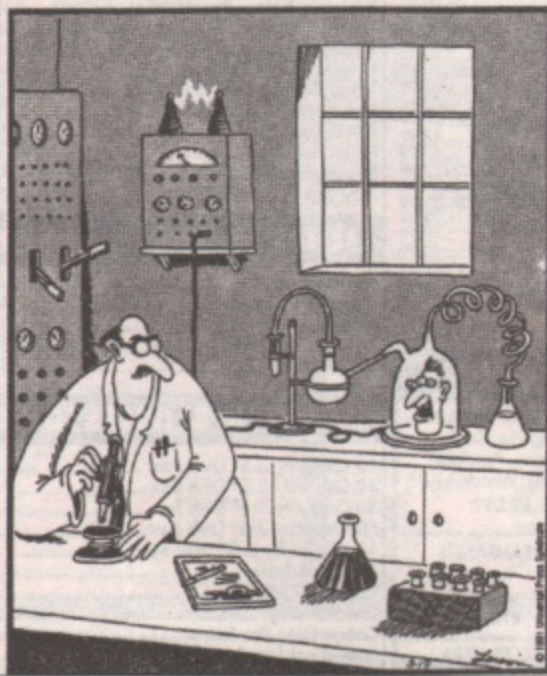
May I begin by congratulating you and your delightful colleagues on producing such a marvelous publication. Each month I wait eagerly for your magazine to hit the news stands, and a few days before publication I can hardly sleep at night due to the anticipation your magazine arouses in me. (OO-er - Ed.)

However, there is one thing that has always puzzled me as I sit fondling the keys and slipping things into the parallel port of my beloved Amiga.

No, it's not how do I get my printer to print properly, and it's not that some of the keys on my keyboard seem reversed, but something much more basic than that. It might be nearly as stupid a question as those mentioned above but I have never seen the answer printed in your illustrious pages before.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



WHAT EXACTLY DOES THE 'CU' IN CU AMIGA STAND FOR OR MEAN?
Clement 'Herman' P., Highbury.

Anyone who has been reading the magazine since the days of the C64 will know instantly what CU stands for. Many years ago, this fine tome went under the name of Commodore User, which became shortened once the 64 was out of the picture.

CANADA DRY

I've finally had a glimpse of the CD32 with the FMV module. I was knocked off my feet! It was playing *Star Trek 6* and the sharpness of the picture and the smooth animation was certainly stunning. I feel lucky that I've seen it because I'm probably one of the few people in my city who are actually going to see it. Commodore used to be a major company in Canada. Now it has nearly been forgotten. For instance, I mentioned to someone at school that I had a Commodore Amiga, and the fool thought that Commodore's flagship was still the C64!

Everyone here thinks that the word 'computer' is generally a synonym of 'IBM PC'. I picked up a newspaper, and on the back page was an ad for a 'Commodore'. I thought to myself "Ah! The Big C is finally going to make a comeback!". Then I read the small print. It read "Commodore personal computers are now 100% DOS compatible" and beside that remark was the 'Intel Inside' logo. I felt as though Commodore were traitors.

On a final note, Tony, I like your hair. Anyone who calls you 'El Hair' is getting a visit from me!!
Adrian Carlyle, Winnipeg, Canada.

I can't really comment on Commodore's position in Canada, but if the World Of Commodore show in Toronto is anything to go by, the Big C is most definitely making a comeback. Thanks for your hair support, by the way. (Cut it Tony - Ed)

RIPPING US OFF!

After reading your March issue of CU AMIGA, in particular the Backchat section, I felt I had to write. I am directing my comments to Mr Clague of Wirral, who wrote about the music industry overcharging for CDs etc. I feel that I must write and say that consumers should wake up and smell the roses. The prices of goods that we see on our shelves are entirely relative. They are only worth as much as we are willing to pay for them. How many times have you seen the outrageous statement in adverts and magazines declaring that: 'Due to popular demand' or, 'Due to incredible success' or, 'Due to advances in technology', we can now offer our products at an amazing, new, lower price. Does anyone believe them? You would have to be completely out of your mind to lower the price of your product when it is supposedly doing so well. Companies only lower

CLUB CALL

This month Club Call takes a detour out of these fair isles of ours and out into the heart of Kenya. Rishi D. Shah begged us to print the following message, so here it is.

THE AMIGA INTERNATIONAL

The club was started two months ago and already has a total of 114 members, both local and from foreign countries. The club sells public domain disks to its members for only 50 pence each (the blank disk is provided by the club and the price includes postage to any country). Also, the club helps members to buy software with a staggering 35% discount. To join the club all you need to do is send £3 worth of stamps for a six month membership, and you'll receive a membership card and a catalogue disk.

If that isn't enough for you, right now there are 25 joysticks and 25 mice to give away to the first 50 people who respond to this ad. For more information, contact Rishi D/Shah at Box 82817, Mombasa, Kenya.

prices when stocks aren't selling. Which brings me on to the real reason I'm writing. Recently, there has been an investigation into the overpricing of video games. My question is; how can you investigate video games for over pricing and not other products with massive profit margins? A can of Coke costs about 5p to make and is around 50p to buy. A pint of lager 10p to make and £1.80 to buy. My point is that the only way consumers can make companies drop their prices is to not buy their products. The next time Mr Clague feels like objecting to the prices of what are essentially unnecessary luxuries, he should look around his local supermarket and take on a few more rip-off merchants. That should keep him busy!

Alison Klerk, London.

Er, yes - indeedy! Then again paying 50p for a can of Coke doesn't leave nearly as big a dent in your pocket as the crater left by a £49.99 cartridge. Does it?

AH! THE GOOD OLD DAYS

I've been reading CU AMIGA for years and, although I threw off the shackles of using my machine as a games only computer years ago, I felt that I had to ask; "Where have all the shoot 'em ups gone?". It was only a few years ago that fabulous arcade games were being released on Commodore's machines. Games like *Project X* and *Alien Breed* could rival anything the consoles had to offer. So what's happened?

Pat McCormack, Dublin.

Well, the team responsible for the two Amiga classics you've mentioned are Team 17 and they've only just released another two brilliant games in *Body Blows Galactic* and *Alien Breed 2*.

We know what you mean. Arcade quality shoot 'em ups are very thin on the ground these days, with most companies committed to bringing out all of their racy stuff on consoles.

However, the CD 32 should be getting it's own share of arcade conversions very soon with *Mad Dog McCree* and possibly *Lethal Enforcers* being converted. For now, check out the impressively priced and pretty looking *Stardust* for £16.99.

MAT

Mat said that he never wanted to be anybody on TV. We can only take this to mean that he had higher aspirations, maybe he really wanted to be the test card or, even better, the little white dot that comes on when the TV is over. He's strange - our Mat.



TONY HORGAN

Our assistant technical editor has been judged insane for admitting that when he was five years old he wanted to be Gary Glitter, after seeing him singing on Top of the Pops. And what song did Tony sing into his hairbrush microphone? "I love, you love". Sad but true.



JOHN KENNEDY

John Kennedy was heavily influenced by Blake's Seven in his youth, which perhaps explains his obsession with techy things, and his rather strange fetish for flashing lights in shiny boxes. It also explains his love of tight nylon boiler suits, covered in glitter!



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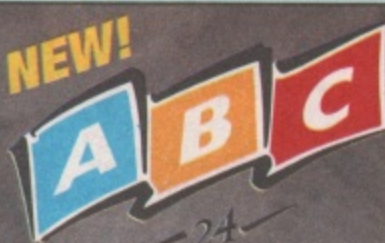
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IT'S FOR MY DAD...



As computer graphics get better, and tastes become more extreme, censorship rears its head in the software industry this month. Tony Dillon wonders if it's really what the doctor ordered.

You are now not allowed to buy certain games. Well, perhaps things aren't quite that bad yet, but the recent voluntary classification system brought in by ELSPA (European Leisure Software Publishers Association) is definitely a major step towards that situation. From this month on, all games will have to carry a 'Monitor Man' sticker, which will offer suitability guidelines to its potential audience.

Parents have always been concerned about computer games and the amount of time kids spend playing them, worried that behind the glare of the screen lies a den of filth, pornography and explicit violence.

It's true that graphic and programming techniques are improving and games themselves seem to be getting more and more explicit in their depiction of violence.

Mortal Kombat, for instance, includes scenes where a person's spine is ripped away from their body. It would now seem that the software houses need some kind of legal safeguard against lawsuits from distressed parents, whose

children may be negatively influenced by the level of violence in some games.

Don't get me wrong, I'm all for mature or 'adult' games, and by 'adult' I don't automatically mean pornographic. But there are a lot of people who want more than *James Pond* to entertain them. If they didn't, why would horror films sell so well?

However, as computer entertainment now reaches a far larger audience than it ever did before, there needs to be some distinction between a family game and something for mature gamers, but are the monitor man stickers really the right way to go about it?

IS THIS THE ANSWER?

There are some major stumbling blocks with age classification. The first, and most obvious, is that a higher age rating automatically makes it more

tempting for younger gamers to try and get hold of the over 18 games. After all, forbidden fruit always tastes the sweetest. This is something that software publishers will be more than aware of, so there will always be the temptation to stick the odd splash of blood in to up the rating.

Remember, the playgrounds of this world are full of young adults always looking for the 'coolest' games to own, and this certification could be just the thing to identify them.

There is another down-side to labelling. What happens to the more family-oriented games? Take something like *Robocod* from Millennium, for instance. It could never be classified as anything other than Universal - For All Ages, and as a result it might lose out against *Covergirl Strip Poker*, which is nowhere near as entertaining, nor will it keep you playing for as long. Yet due to its content, will receive at least a 15 rating. Will software houses feel obliged to create more adult games, just to keep their sales high enough?

Look at the video rental industry, where age classification often seems to be ignored by stores, or is, at least, too difficult to enforce. When I was at school, I can clearly remember ribald tales of late-night gore films and graphic discussions on the contents of someone's intestines.

Even now, if you offer a fifteen-year-old the choice between Disney's *Aladdin* and a cheap US horror flick, which do you think he would want to see? And which film will be more acceptable to his peers? A lot of things will influence his decision, and sadly the actual quality of the film seems to rank quite low.

OPTIONS?

So what is the alternative? There is really only one - a legally enforceable categorisation scheme and integrity on the part of the shopkeeper. Let's have two categories only; fifteen and over and below fifteen. I only choose fifteen because that's the age that, on average, kids can easily get into an 18 rated movie at the cinema. Also, let's keep the two in completely different sections of the shop.

Most importantly, let's not allow younger players to buy the games that aren't in their range, even if they do claim that "It's for my dad".

We can't ban adult games - there are a lot of adults who want to play them. But we do need to split the market to protect the young from exploitation.

There is nothing wrong with being an adult, or having adult interests, so let's sort this out before any game with an 18 rating gets a 'top shelf', under the counter, flasher's mac' stigma attached to it. **CU**

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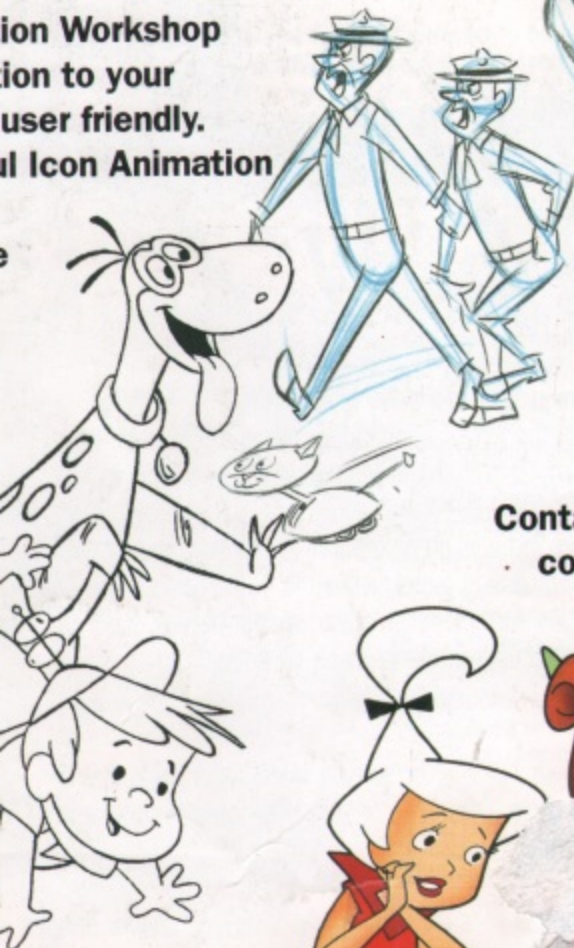
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